



ATLAS
ASTONISHING
APR.
NO. 48
ALL BRAND-NEW
ASTONISHING TALES
10¢
APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY
"IT HAPPENED
AT MIDNIGHT!"

Astonishing



SKINNY

MEN ARE OFTEN ASHAMED TO STRIP FOR SPORTS OR FOR A SWIM!

GIRLS ARE NOT ALLURING AND DON'T HAVE EYE-CATCHING CURVES!

CHILDREN WHO WON'T EAT AND ARE UNDERWEIGHT, OFTEN CALLED SKINNY!

Now at last More-Wate plan that puts firm, attractive pounds and inches on your body, chest, arms and legs.

GAIN MORE WEIGHT IN 10 DAYS OR YOUR MONEY BACK!



Amazing New Way developed by modern medical science to put on weight on lean bodies. **Guaranteed** to give you up to an extra pound a day! Or your money back! Why should you dread going to parties and socials, simply because you look scrawny and spindly? Why ever feel self-conscious about your body again? If you're underweight* . . . or just a little on the thin side, due to faulty appetite, or bad dietary habits, you can put on up to a pound a day of attractive weight without exercise . . . dangerous drugs . . . or special diet . . . and more quickly, more easily than you ever dreamed possible . . . with MORE-WATE.

dangerous drugs . . . you eat it like candy! Yet . . . if you were to have this same prescription compounded to your order, it would cost you many times more. However, through this introductory offer, you can obtain 4-way MORE-WATE tablets . . . a full 10 days' supply . . . for just \$1.00 or a 30 day supply for only \$2.98, plus a 10 day supply free, with an absolute money-back guarantee! Yes, try MORE-WATE for TEN DAYS . . . and if not entirely delighted with weight gained, return the unused supply for full refund! You've nothing to lose . . . and weight to gain! Act now! Stop being the guy or the gal that everyone calls "skinny." Stop being the guy or the gal who dreads

summer and going to parties and socials because it means everyone will enjoy themselves and you won't. Don't be a wallflower, because you have a figure like a broomstick! Gain more weight!

10-DAY SUPPLY ONLY \$1.

The 4-way MORE-WATE tablets are unconditionally guaranteed to put on weight . . . or it doesn't cost you a penny! MORE-WATE is a delicious, full strength, 4-way tablet . . . that combines not just one . . . or two . . . but 4 of the most amazing aids for gaining weight known to medical science. MORE-WATE is not a liquid . . . not a powder. It's delicious, pleasant-tasting tablet! It contains vitamin B-12 . . . the amazing red vitamin doctors give many underweight patients in hospitals . . . It contains Iron that helps correct iron deficiency, anemia and builds rich, red blood. It contains appetite-building vitamin B-1 . . . and it contains nutritious easily assimilated malt, the amazing ingredient that helps your body turn much of the food you eat into well rounded flesh instead of being wasted. That's the secret of putting on weight. Now you can help your food to add new pounds to your arms, chest, hips, thighs, and legs. Now you don't have to be skinny . . . or afraid to be seen socially and be ashamed of your figure! You must achieve the figure you want . . . or don't pay anything. Act now!



Not one child yet has failed to go for and ask for more MORE-WATE tablets! Stop worrying about children not eating enough, give them MORE-WATE tablets—it stimulates their appetite . . . they eat it like candy!

MAIL THIS NO RISK TRIAL COUPON NOW! SENSATIONAL 10-DAY TEST!

Mail the coupon now! Test the amazing MORE-WATE tablet plan for 10 days at our expense. If after 10 days your friends, your mirror and your scale do not tell you that you have gained weight and look better you pay nothing!

MORE-WATE CO., Dept. M177
318 Market Street, Newark, N. J.

Just mail us your name and address, and \$1.00 cash, check or money order. You will receive a 10 day supply of MORE-WATE tablets and plan, postage prepaid.

☐ Send me 30 day supply plus an extra 10 day supply (that's a 40 day supply) for \$2.98. I understand that if I am not delighted with MORE-WATE tablets and plan, I can return the 30 day supply in 10 days for full purchase price refund, and keep the 10 day supply without charge.

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SENT ON APPROVAL—MAKE AMAZING 10-DAY TEST

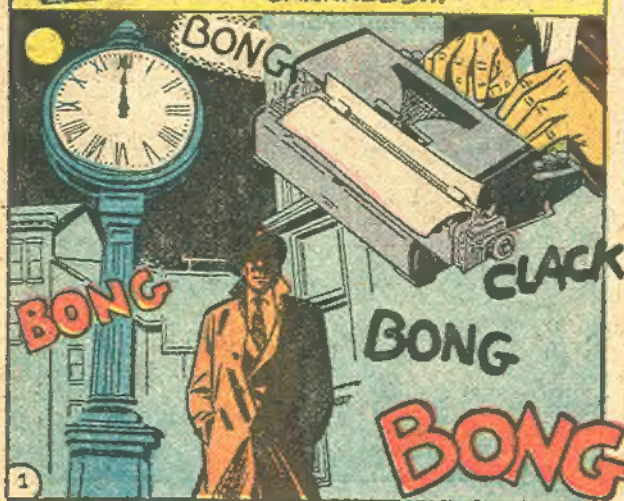
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IT HAPPENED AT MIDNIGHT!

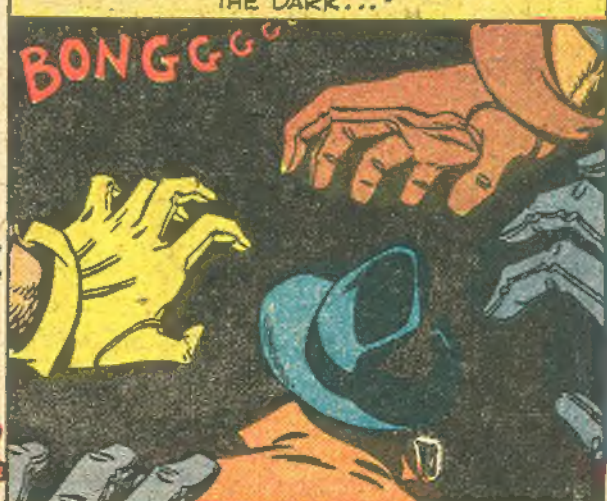
THE TYPEWRITER KEYS CLICKED FURIOUSLY IN THE NIGHT! RANDY CLARKE HAD A DEADLINE TO MEET, A TALE OF FANTASY TO WRITE AND MAIL TO HIS PUBLISHERS FOR MORNING DELIVERY! OF COURSE, SUCH A STORY AS RANDY WROTE COULD NEVER ACTUALLY HAPPEN... OR COULD IT?



THE STORY BEGAN, "IT WAS MIDNIGHT! THE CLOCK ON THE STREET CHIMED THE HOUR! HE WALKED THROUGH THE DARKNESS..."

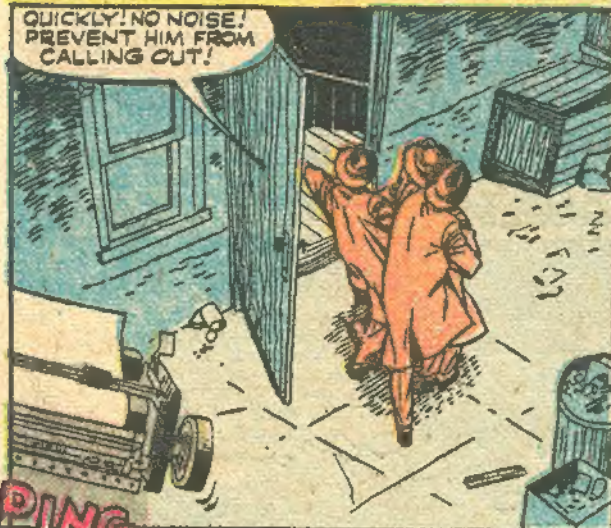


THE LAST STROKE ECHOED HOLLOWLY THROUGH THE EMPTY BLACKNESS! IT WAS AT THAT PRECISE MOMENT THAT THE HANDS REACHED OUT FROM THE DARK...



"FIGURES LOOMED, DARKER SHAPES AGAINST THE SURROUNDING NIGHT..."

QUICKLY! NO NOISE!
PREVENT HIM FROM
CALLING OUT!



PING

"HE STRUGGLED BUT THEY HELD HIM IN A GRIP OF STEEL! THEY PUSHED HIM THROUGH A DOOR... IT BLAMMED BEHIND HIM! HE WAS IN A DIMLY-LIT HALL..."

SAY, WHAT
IS THIS?

BE QUIET!
MOVE FORWARD!



"HEAVY DRAPES CUT OFF HIS VIEW OF THE ROOM ADJOINING, AND NEXT TO THE CURTAINED DOORWAY, A TELEPHONE STOOD UPON A SMALL TABLE, HIS VOICE WAS THIN WITH ANGER AS HE SPOKE!"

LISTEN, I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
THIS IS ALL
ABOUT, BUT
YOU'VE GOT
THE WRONG
MAN!

NO, WE HAVE
THE RIGHT
MAN! YOU ARE
AN EARTHLING,
AREN'T YOU?

I DON'T
UNDERSTAND...

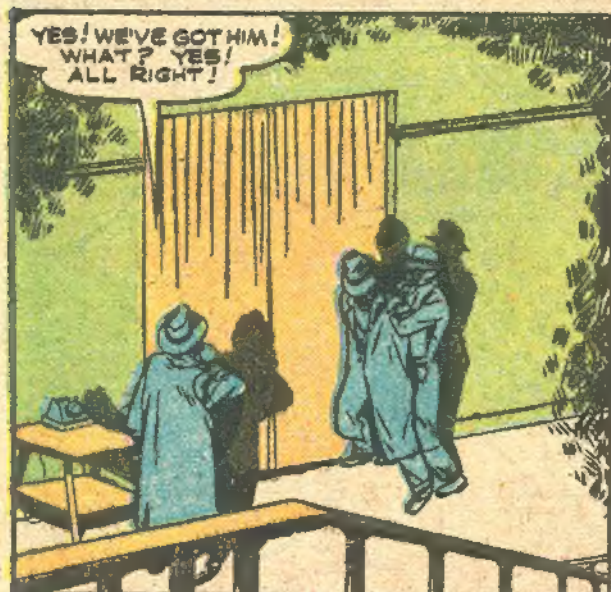
TAKE HIM IN THE
OTHER ROOM!

WAIT... IT MAY BE
FURTHER
INSTRUCTIONS!



RINNNNGG!

YES! WE'VE GOT HIM!
WHAT? YES!
ALL RIGHT!



INSTRUCTIONS THAT HE BE TOLD EVERYTHING!
LISTEN WELL, EARTHMAN! WE ARE NOT OF
EARTH! WE ARE ALIENS FROM A PARALLEL
DIMENSION WHO HAVE TAKEN HUMAN FORM!
WE ARE SENDING YOU TO OUR DIMENSION
SO OUR SCIENTISTS CAN OBSERVE YOU...



CLICK!

SO OUR PEOPLE WILL LEARN ALL ABOUT HUMANS! BEYOND THESE DRAPES IS THE ROOM OF NOTHINGNESS, THE ENTRANCE TO OUR DIMENSION! PUSH HIM THROUGH!

NO! NO!



"THEY PUSHED HIM THROUGH THE SOFT DRAPES INTO... BLACKNESS! HE FELT HIMSELF WHIRL, PLUNGE DOWNWARD, AND HE DISAPPEARED... WHERE?"



THAT DOES IT! LEAVE IT HANG... IT INTRIGUES THE READER! BESIDES, I DON'T KNOW HOW TO FINISH THIS THING AND I'VE GOT TO GET IT INTO THE MAIL!



RANDY PUT THE SCRIPT INTO AN ENVELOPE, STAMPED AND SEALED IT AND LEFT THE ROOM!

I WONDER IF IT SOUNDS REAL ENOUGH? I DON'T WANT IT TO SEEM LIKE A FANCIFUL YARN! OF COURSE, IT COULDN'T HAPPEN, YET IT MUST SEEM AS THOUGH IT COULD TO THE READER!



HE WENT OUT INTO THE DARKNESS, TOWARD THE MAILBOX AT THE CORNER! THE CLOCK UP THE STREET BEGAN TO CHIME! TWELVE O'CLOCK... MIDNIGHT!

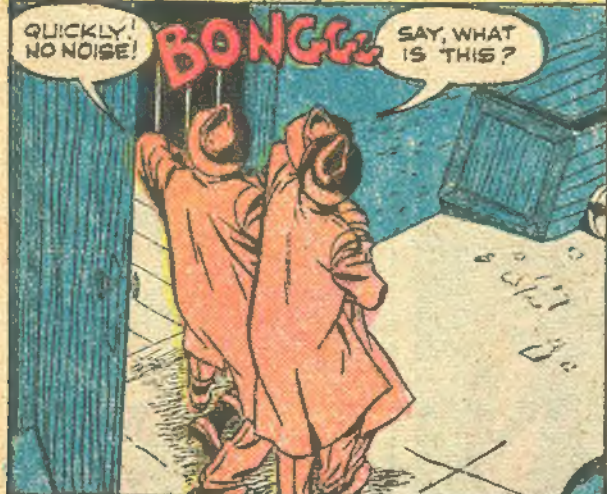


THE LAST STROKE ECHOED OUT THROUGH THE EMPTY BLACKNESS! IT WAS THEN THE HANDS REACHED OUT OF THE DARKNESS AND GRABBED HIM!

QUICKLY! NO NOISE!

BONG

SAY, WHAT IS THIS?



LISTEN, I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT, BUT YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG MAN!

NO! WE'VE GOT THE RIGHT MAN!



HE FORGOT TO SAY, "YOU ARE AN EARTHLING, AREN'T YOU?"

TELEPHONE! WAIT! IT
MAY BE FURTHER
INSTRUCTIONS!

YES, WE'VE GOT HIM! WHAT? YES, ALL RIGHT!

NOW HE'LL TELL ME...ABOUT
THE OTHER DIMENSION!

SORRY! HE IS THE **WRONG** MAN!
H.Q. HAS THE **OTHER** ONE!
WE'RE F.B.I. MEN! WE'VE BEEN
AFTER AN UNDESIRABLE ALIEN!
WE THOUGHT **YOU** WERE THE
MAN, BUT OTHER OPERATORS
PICKED THE RIGHT MAN UP!

**ALIEN! RIGHT
WORD...BUT THE
REST DOESN'T
FIT THE SCRIPT!**

WHAT WAS THAT?

NOTHING! JUST A STRAY THOUGHT! WELL
THANKS FOR THE EXPERIENCE! GOOD-BYE!

AND I WAS WORRIED THAT MY
STORY WASN'T **REAL** ENOUGH!
WHAT A LAUGH! AMAZING COIN-
CIDENCE, THE WHOLE THING!
F.B.I. MEN MISTAKING
ME FOR...

WAIT A MINUTE! THAT'S WHAT THEY SAID! BUT HOW DO I KNOW THEY WERE F.B.I. MEN? I DIDN'T SEE THEIR CREDENTIALS! THEY COULD'VE BEEN... ALIENS...

AUTHORS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE CURIOUS FELLOWS, BUT THIS IS ONE TIME I'M NOT GOING TO FIND OUT!

CLANK!

BONG

BONG

BOWE

THE END

"We're looking for people who like to draw"

BY ALBERT DORNE

Famous Magazine Illustrator

DO YOU LIKE TO DRAW? If you do—America's 12 Most Famous Artists are looking for you. We want you to test your art talent!

Too many people miss a wonderful career in art—simply because they don't think they have talent. But my colleagues and I have helped thousands of people get started. Like these—

• Don Smith lives in New Orleans. Three years ago Don knew nothing about art—even doubted he had talent. Today, he is an illustrator with a leading advertising agency in the South—and has a future as big as he wants to make it.

Pipe-fitter to Artist

John Busketta is another. He was a pipe-fitter's helper with a big gas company—until he decided to do something about his urge to draw. He still works for the same company—but as an artist in the advertising department. At a big increase in pay!

Don Golemba of Detroit stepped up from railroad worker to the styling department of a major automobile company. Now he helps design new car models!

Profitable Hobby—at 72

A great-grandmother in Newark, Ohio, decided to use her spare time to study painting. Recently, she had her first local "one man" show—where she sold thirty-two water colors and five oil paintings. Now she happily looks forward to many vigorous, money-making years in art.

A salesgirl in West Virginia who liked to draw got a job as an artist, later became advertising manager of the best store in Charleston. A married man with three children—unhappy in a dead-end job—switched to a great new career in art. Now he's one of the happiest men you'll ever meet!

How about you? Wouldn't you like to trade places with these happy artists?

Free Art Talent Test

We want to help you find out if you have the talent for a fascinating money-making art career (part time or full time). We'll be glad to send you our remarkably revealing 8-page talent test. Thousands of people formerly paid \$1 for this test. But now we'll send it to you *free*—if you sincerely like to draw. No obligation on your part. But act at once. Simply mail the coupon provided below to Famous Artists Schools, Studio 128-C, Westport, Conn.

America's 12 Most Famous Artists



ALBERT DORNE



NORMAN ROCKWELL



AL PARKER



JON WHITCOMB



HAROLD VON SCHMIDT



EZEVAN DONAHOE



FRED LUDERENS



PETER HELCK



ROBERT FAWCETT



BEN STAHL



DONG KINGMAN



AUSTIN BRIGGS

FAMOUS ARTISTS SCHOOLS

Studio 128-C, Westport, Conn.

Send me, without obligation, your Famous Artists Talent Test.

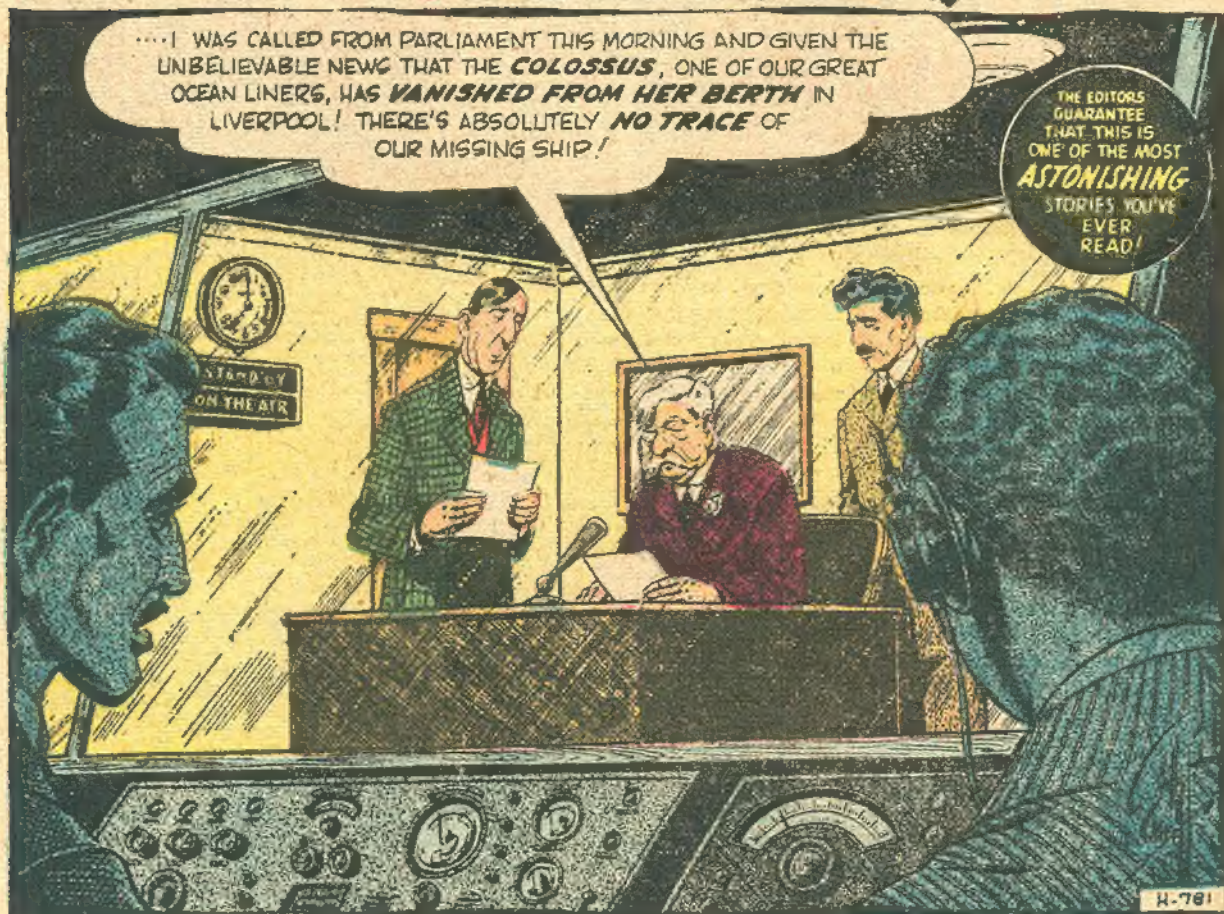
Mr. _____ Age _____
 Mrs. _____
 Miss _____ (PLEASE PRINT)
 Address _____
 City, Zone, State _____

THE ASTONISHED CRY RANG THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AS NATION AFTER NATION AWOKED THAT MORNING TO FIND THAT THE **IMPOSSIBLE** HAD HAPPENED!

ONE OF OUR SHIPS IS MISSING!

....I WAS CALLED FROM PARLIAMENT THIS MORNING AND GIVEN THE UNBELIEVABLE NEWS THAT THE **COLOSSUS**, ONE OF OUR GREAT OCEAN LINERS, HAS **VANISHED FROM HER BERTH** IN LIVERPOOL! THERE'S ABSOLUTELY **NO TRACE** OF OUR MISSING SHIP!

THE EDITORS GUARANTEE THAT THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST **ASTONISHING** STORIES YOU'VE EVER READ!



H-781

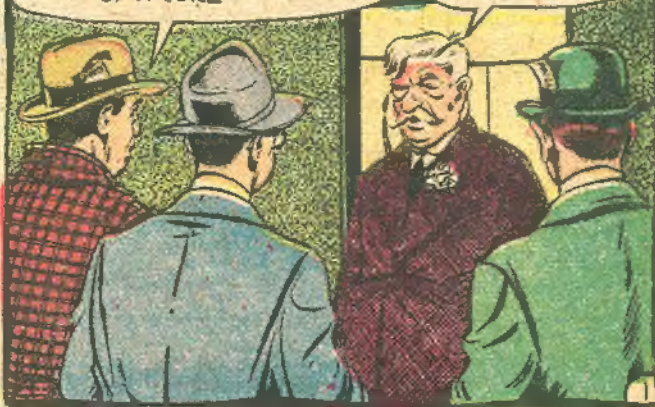
SO, MY FRIENDS IN AMERICA, AND ALL OTHER COUNTRIES, WE BEG YOUR COOPERATION! WE NEED YOUR HELP IN SOLVING THIS MYSTERY!



A FEW MOMENTS LATER

SIR RONALD! A WORD FOR THE PRESS! DO YOU THINK THIS MISSING SHIP AFFAIR IS SOMEONE'S IDEA OF A JOKE?

IT'D BE IN VERY POOR TASTE IF IT WERE, SIR!



MEANWHILE, IN PARIS, IN A STATION OF THE MÉTRO ...



M'SIEU, YOU ASK ME TO BELIEVE YOU LOCKED THE CONTROLS OF YOUR TRAIN LAST NIGHT, AND THIS MORNING IT'S **MISSING**?

THE ENTIRE MÉTRO SYSTEM HAS BEEN SEARCHED, M'SIEU, BUT **NO TRAIN!**

AND THE **BBC** HAS JUST RADIOED THAT THE SHIP **COLOSSUS** HAS **DISAPPEARED!**

BUT HOW CAN THIS BE?



AT THAT SAME MOMENT, AT THE GREAT AIRPORT IN ROME ...



I AM **NOT** MISTAKEN, SIGNOR! THAT PASSENGER PLANE WAS ALONE ON THE FIELD ALL NIGHT, WAITING FOR THE FOG TO LIFT SO IT COULD TAKE OFF FOR NEW YORK!



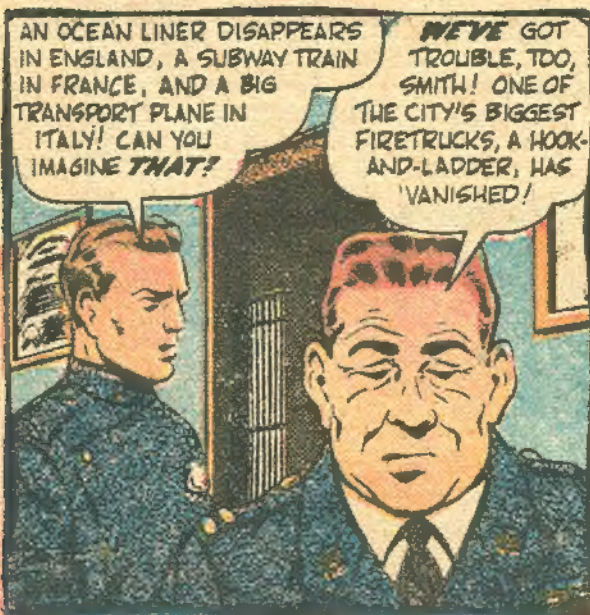
AND NO ONE HEARD THE SOUND OF ITS MOTORS?

THAT AIRLINER DID **NOT** TAKE OFF, SIGNOR! IT SIMPLY **VANISHED!**

THE BEWILDERING NEWS SOON REACHED POLICE HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK ...



CAPTAIN FLAHERTY, LOOK AT THIS! JUST CAME IN OVER THE TELETYPE!



AN OCEAN LINER DISAPPEARS IN ENGLAND, A SUBWAY TRAIN IN FRANCE, AND A BIG TRANSPORT PLANE IN ITALY! CAN YOU IMAGINE **THAT**?

WE'VE GOT TROUBLE, TOO, SMITH! ONE OF THE CITY'S BIGGEST FIRETRUCKS, A HOOK-AND-LADDER, HAS **VANISHED!**

WHILE THE HUNT WENT ON BY LAND, SEA, AND AIR, AN EMERGENCY COMMITTEE OF THE SEVERAL NATIONS INVOLVED MET AT U.N. HEADQUARTERS ...

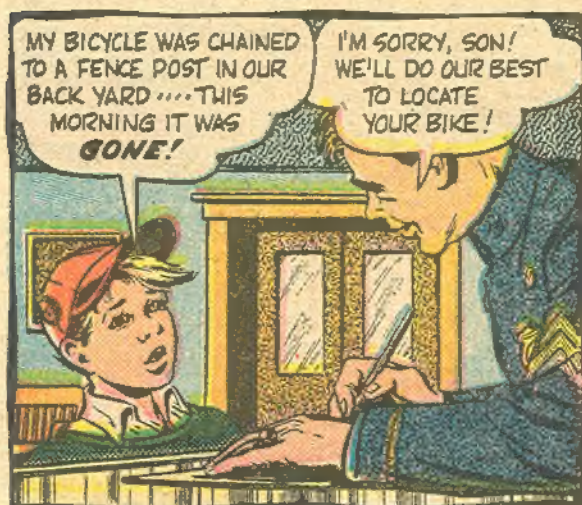


THEN WE'RE AGREED THAT THESE DISAPPEARANCES ARE THE WORK OF A RING OF INTERNATIONAL THIEVES?

AGREED, 'THOUGH IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE! HOW WOULD THIEVES GET RID OF SUCH HUGE ITEMS? YET--WHAT OTHER EXPLANATION CAN THERE BE?

JIMMY WATSON'S LOSS WAS NOT AS EARTHSHAKING AS THOSE OTHERS, BUT IT WAS JUST AS IMPORTANT TO HIM...

DEEP AS THE MYSTERY WAS, NEXT MORNING IT WAS EVEN DEEPER! LONDON....



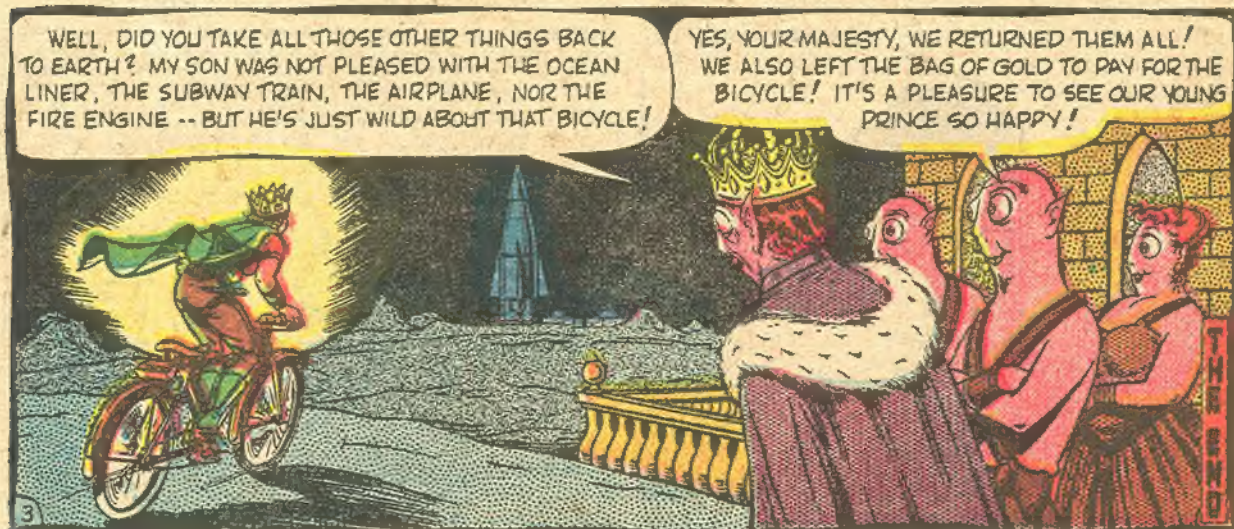
PARIS....!

AND AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK....

EVERYTHING CAME BACK-- EXCEPT JIMMY WATSON'S BIKE!



YES--THE WHOLE WORLD WAS PUZZLED, BUT HAPPY TO HAVE ITS POSSESSIONS BACK--AND HIS HIGHNESS, THE PRINCE OF MARS, WAS ECSTATIC WITH DELIGHT!!!





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The most wonderful book for boys ever put together!

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13. A Complete Course in Wrestling with Holds, Grips and Throws Fully Explained
14. A Beginner's Course on Ventriloquism with a Complete Skit

Never before such a wonderful book. 256 Pages—hundreds of illustrations—and only \$1.00

Price only
\$1.00



LIGHTNING JU-JITSU

Master Ju-Jitsu and you'll be able to overcome any attack—win any fight!

You, too, can be tough! You can defeat any man in a fight. This is what this book promises you! *Lightning Ju-Jitsu* will equip you with a powerful defense and counter-attack against any bully, attacker or enemy. It is equally effective and easy to use by any man or woman, boy or girl—and you don't need big muscles or weight to apply. Technique and the know-how does the trick. This book gives you all the secrets, grips, pressures, which are so effective in quickly "putting an attacker out of business".

Just follow the illustrations and easy directions, practice the grips, holds and movements—and you'll fear no man. 96 pages—dozens of illustrations and only—\$1.00.

Price only
\$1.00



LEARN TO DANCE—A MINUTE

Don't envy dancers. Be one. Enjoy life, dancing. Be popular. Others do, why not you? Here is a simple and complete guide that shows you how you can teach yourself to become a good dancer, easily and quickly. Fully illustrated with a dancing couple, showing you each step and movement—with foot-prints showing just how feet move—and with complete written information and advice on leading and following, rhythm, posture, etiquette, etc.

AMAZING BARGAIN: Set of three books—

HOW TO DANCE—covers popular ballroom dancing—The Waltz, Hesitation, Savoy, La Bomba, The Rhumba, Black Bottom, Charleston, Fox-Trot, Tango, Promenade, El Charonne, The Polka, etc.

SWING STEPS—covers today's exciting swing rhythms—The Swing Break, Snake Hips, Shim, Sham, Shimmy, The Suzi-Q, The Westchester, Trucking, The Peabody, etc.

SQUARE DANCING—covers popular country dancing—Square Sets, Quadrilles, Running Sets, Play-Games, Round Dances, sample dances are Wagon Wheel, Virginia Reel, Mountaineer, Lily White Hands, Gal from Arkansas, Birdie in a Cage, etc.

You can learn a basic step in one hour, a complete dance in one evening. From then on it is just practice and dancing. Get in the fun! Send for these easy, home-study dance lessons NOW! Only \$1.00

Price only
\$1.00



VENTRILOQUISM MADE EASY

In ONE DAY You'll Be Able to Perform a Ventriloquial Skit!

How would YOU like to be able to perform ventriloquism? It would give you lots of fun and pleasure! Brand new book—**VENTRILOQUISM MADE EASY**, by John Mendoza—reveals all the methods and secrets in the art of "throwing your voice". This book takes away all the mystery—shows you just how the voice is made to appear to come from some other place—how to handle all different words, phrases, and sentences—how your actions and acting help in the make-believe—how to make your voice sound different when impersonating a boy or girl, a man or woman, a horse, dog or other being—how to develop props and appearances—how to select and have made a suitable figure or dummy to work with—how to learn the patter and also a stage manner—how to give a competent, complete performance—and much more! And that is not all—

FREE WITH EVERY ORDER FOR THIS BOOK: Book of 100 AMUSEMENTS. Gives you a series of party and professional stunts, tricks, magic, songs, jokes, patter! Will make you popular and a real entertainer! And the price COMPLETE IS ONLY \$1.00

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Please send me the book or books I have checked below.

- ☐ Fun For Boys _____ \$1.00
- ☐ Lightning Ju-Jitsu _____ 1.00
- ☐ Learn To Dance _____ 1.00
- ☐ Ventriloquism Made Easy {with book of 100 Amusements Free} _____ 1.00

() I enclose \$_____ in payment. Send postage free.

() Send C.O.D. for \$_____ plus shipping costs.

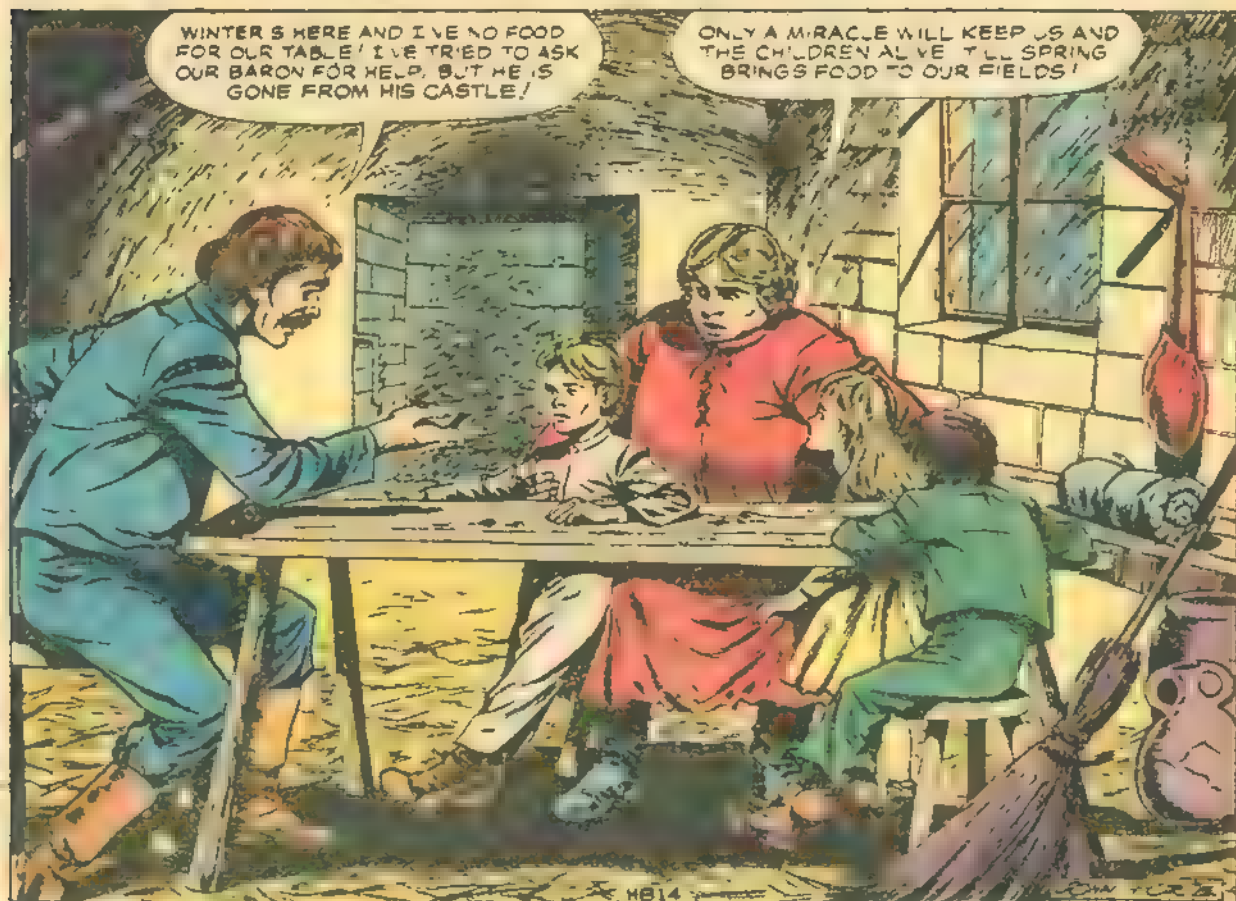
Name _____

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City and Zone _____ State _____

THERE WERE A DOZEN CONFLICTING RUMORS ABOUT WHO WAS BEHIND THE STRANGE MASK, BUT WHEN THE TRUTH WAS FINALLY REVEALED, IT CAME IN A MOST AMAZING WAY!

THE MAN BEHIND THE MASK!

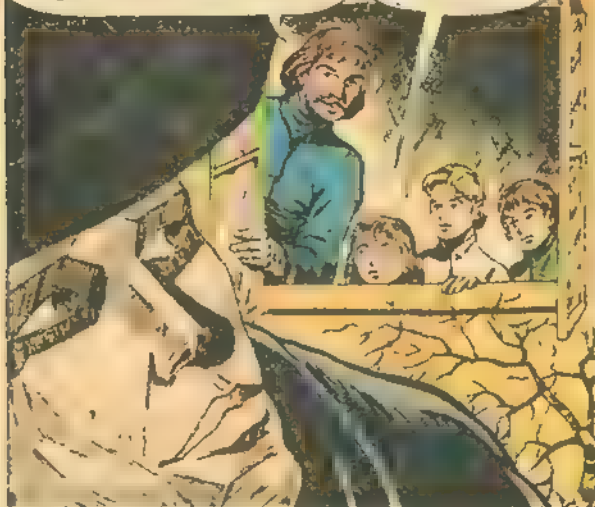


THEN SUDDENLY THERE IS A GRATING NOISE AT THE WINDOW OF THE PEASANT'S HUT AND A HAND IS SHOVED THROUGH...



I HAVE HEARD OF HIM OFTEN!
BUT I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD
SEE THE "GOOD FAIRY"!

WHAT A FUNNY
FACE HE HAS,
FATHER!



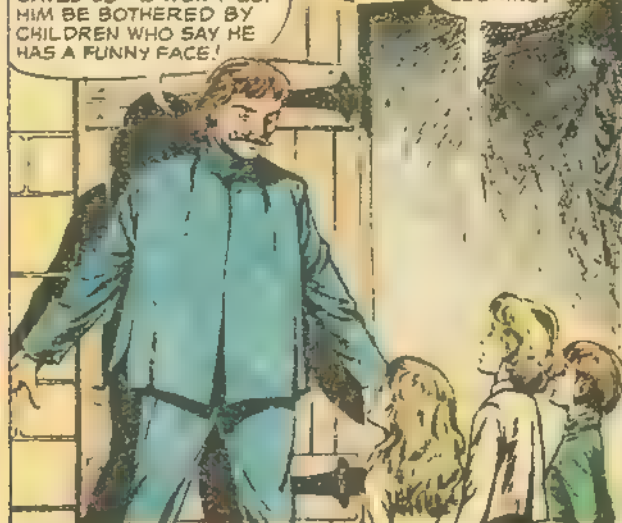
LET'S GO OUT AND TOUCH
HIM! MAYBE THAT'LL GIVE
US SOME MAGIC POWER!

I'LL TOUCH
HIM FIRST!



STAY INSIDE! HE HAS
BROUGHT US FOOD AND
SAVED US! I WON'T LET
HIM BE BOTHERED BY
CHILDREN WHO SAY HE
HAS A FUNNY FACE!

BUT HE IS
STRANGE
LOOKING!



AS MYSTERIOUSLY AS HE CAME, THE "GOOD FAIRY"
VANISHES! THE WINTER WIND CUTS ACROSS THE
FROZEN FIELDS, AND IN A BATTERED HUT BEYOND
THE CASTLE'S WALLS, AN OLD COUPLE SHIVERS...

WE NEED MORE WOOD FOR
THE FIRE OR WE'LL FREEZE!

MIGHT AS WELL
WISH FOR A WARM
ROBE TO WRAP
YOURSELF IN!



SUDDENLY, THERE IS A HEAVY
THUMPING AS SOMETHING FALLS
OUTSIDE THE COLD HUT! THE OLD
MAN FLINGS OPEN THE DOOR AND
GAPES...

THERE'S AHC'S RESPONSIBLE
FOR OUR FORTUNE... THE
"GOOD FAIRY"!

AND TO THINK I
DOUBTED HIS
EXISTENCE!

JUST BECAUSE YOU
WERE TOLD HIS
FACE WAS UNUSUAL,
WAS NO REASON TO
THINK PEOPLE
IMAGINED HIM! THE
WOOD AND ROBES...
THEY'RE PROOF
ENOUGH!

WHAT WE WISHED FOR!
IT CAME TRUE!



ELSEWHERE IN THE SMALL MEDIEVAL VILLAGE, A MOTHER SADLY EYES HER SICK CHILD...



JUST THEN, A METALLIC SOUND RINGS OUT AND THE WOMAN WHIRLS ABOUT, HER EYES WIDEN IN ASTONISHMENT...



THANK YOU! THANK YOU WITH ALL MY HEART!



WHO IS BEHIND THAT STRANGE FACE? CAN THERE REALLY BE SUCH A BEING AS A "GOOD FAIRY"?



ONCE OUT OF SIGHT, THE "GOOD FAIRY" TAKES MORE THAN NORMAL CARE TO COVER HIS TRACKS WHERE SOME GRASS BREAKS THROUGH THE SNOW...



THEN FOLLOWING A ROUND-ABOUT TRAIL, THE "GOOD FAIRY" HEADS WITH DETERMINED STEPS TOWARD A PROSPEROUS MILLER'S HUT...

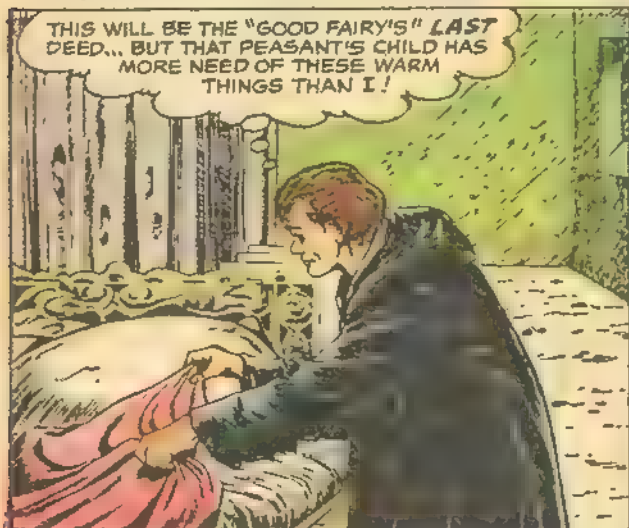


CAUTIOUSLY LOOKING AROUND TO MAKE SURE NO ONE IS WATCHING, HE ENTERS THE HOUSE AND THE WEALTHY MILLER REMOVES HIS MASK...

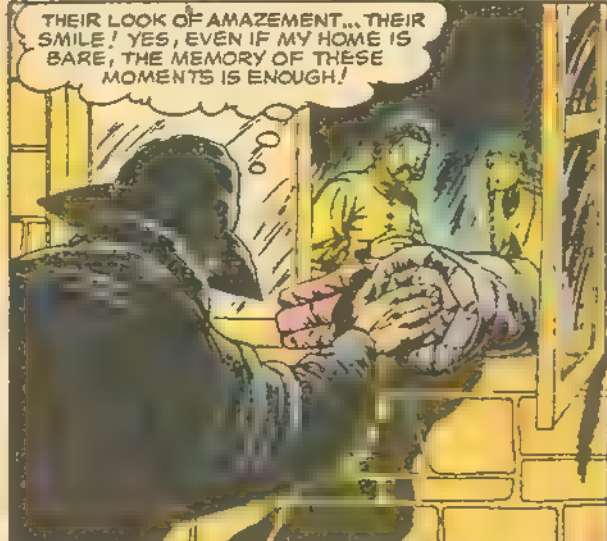


BUT THE FOLLOWING WINTER, A POOR CROP TURNS THE ONCE PROSPEROUS MILLER INTO A BANKRUPT MAN! STILL, HE CONTINUES WITH HIS ANONYMOUS CHARITY...

DONNING HIS MASK, THE MILLER PLODS OUT INTO THE COLD TO PERFORM HIS LAST HELPFUL ACT...



THIS WILL BE THE "GOOD FAIRY'S" LAST DEED... BUT THAT PEASANT'S CHILD HAS MORE NEED OF THESE WARM THINGS THAN I!



THEIR LOOK OF AMAZEMENT... THEIR SMILE! YES, EVEN IF MY HOME IS BARE, THE MEMORY OF THESE MOMENTS IS ENOUGH!

AS THE WIND GROWS IN FORCE FOR THREE DAYS, THE MILLER LIES ON HIS BARE BED! THERE IS NO FOOD LEFT TO EAT, FOR HE HAS GIVEN AWAY HIS LAST LOAF TO A NEEDIER PERSON...

TWO MORE DAYS, HE LIES ON HIS COLD BED, AS HUNGER SAPS HIS STRENGTH! THEN, AS HE IS ABOUT TO CLOSE HIS EYES FOR THE LAST TIME, A LOUD KNOCK AT THE DOOR REVIVES HIM...

HERE, MILLER! FOOD AND ROBES! EAT AND BE WARM! WE WILL MAKE A FIRE FOR YOU!

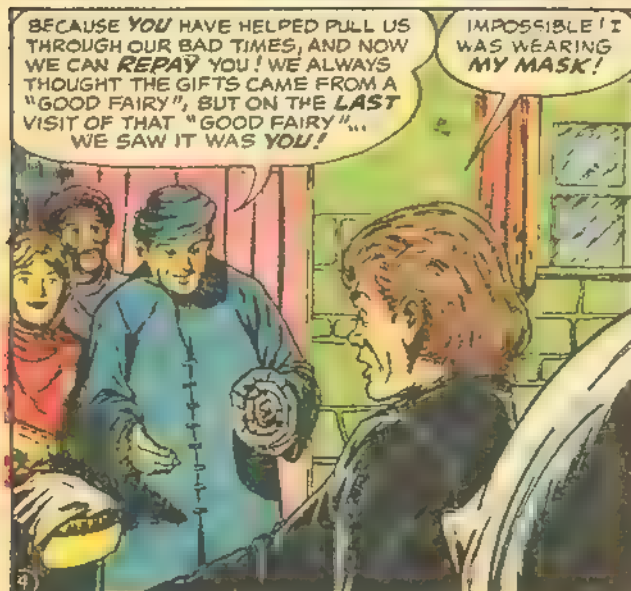
TH- THANK YOU... BUT WHY HAVE YOU BROUGHT ALL THESE THINGS TO ME?



THE END WILL SOON COME... BUT BETTER TO HAVE LIVED A GOOD LIFE AND HELP OTHERS, THAN BE LYING HERE, WELL FED BUT WITH A BAD CONSCIENCE!



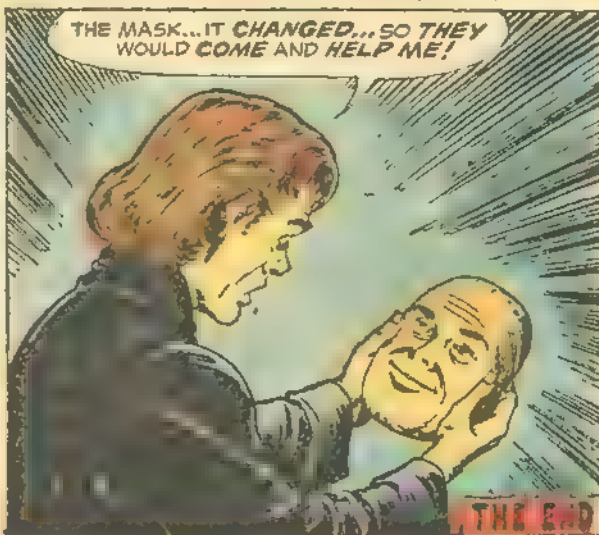
C-COME IN..



BECAUSE YOU HAVE HELPED PULL US THROUGH OUR BAD TIMES, AND NOW WE CAN REPAY YOU! WE ALWAYS THOUGHT THE GIFTS CAME FROM A "GOOD FAIRY", BUT ON THE LAST VISIT OF THAT "GOOD FAIRY"... WE SAW IT WAS YOU!

IMPOSSIBLE! I WAS WEARING MY MASK!

THEN THE MILLER PULLS HIS MASK FROM ITS HIDING PLACE AND STARES IN AMAZEMENT...



THE MASK... IT CHANGED... SO THEY WOULD COME AND HELP ME!

THE END

STATEMENT REQUIRED BY THE
ACT OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY
THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 2, 1946
(Title 39, United States Code, Section 233)
SHOWING THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT,
AND CIRCULATION OF

ASTONISHING, published monthly, at New
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1. The names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are Publisher, 20TH CENTURY COMIC CORP., 655 Madison Avenue, New York 21, N. Y.; Editor, STAN LEE, 655 Madison Avenue, New York 21, N. Y.; Managing editor, MARTIN GOODMAN, 655 Madison Avenue, New York 21, N. Y.; Business manager, MONROE FROENLICH, JR., 655 Madison Avenue, New York 21, N. Y.

2. The owner is (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual member, must be given.)

20TH CENTURY COMIC CORP., 655 Madison Avenue, New York 21, N. Y.; MARTIN GOODMAN, 655 Madison Avenue, New York 21, N. Y.; JEAN GOODMAN, 655 Madison Avenue, New York 21, N. Y.

3. The known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none, so state.)

None.

4. Paragraphs 2 and 3 include, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, also the statements in the two paragraphs show the amount's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner.

5. The average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the 12 months preceding the date shown above was (This information is required from daily, weekly, semi-weekly, and tri-weekly newspapers only.)

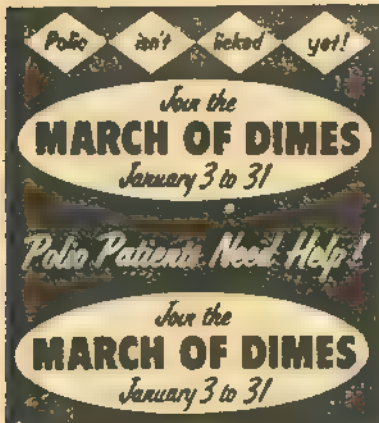
(Signed) MONROE FROENLICH, JR.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 19th day of September, 1955.

(SEAL) TESS GOLDBERG

Notary Public, State of New York
No. 41-656325

Qualified in Queens County
Commission Expires March 30, 1956



THE PLANTS

PHIL'S greenhouse was his pride and joy, and his plants were perfect specimens.

"You're experimenting too much lately," his wife warned, "and don't blame me if you lose any more of those Dwarficus Ivy plants! Who ever heard of feeding the poor little things formula just to make them stretch a little taller?"

"But you don't understand," said Phil excitedly. If I can get a Dwarficus Ivy plant to grow six feet . . . even five feet tall, I'll be a national hero! It has never been done before!"

"And you won't be the one to do it, either," said his wife cynically. "The poor things shrank no bigger than grass blades! Remember?"

Phil scratched his head thoughtfully.

"Well, maybe the formula wasn't exactly what I wanted," he admitted. "But I'll mix a few more powders and see what I can do."

His wife shook her head hopelessly and walked away from him.

The next afternoon Phil started to work in his home laboratory, carefully mixing and preparing special powders. Eagerly, he scanned the jars in front of him to add the crowning ingredient to his new concoction. His face saddened with disappointment. The powder he needed wasn't there.

He was so ambitious that he had used his entire supply the day before. It was too late to run to town before the chemist closed down his shop. With a

sigh, Phil sat back in his chair and yawned sleepily. He got to his feet and walked upstairs. The door to his lab swung open behind him, but he didn't bother to close it. And this was a very bad mistake, indeed.

"Well, I'm glad you've at last decided to call it a day!" his wife greeted him.

"I've got to get back to the lab and pour out that new batch of formula I just put together. I'm missing the final ingredient. The stuff is useless now and I'll have to throw it out before it spoils."

"You take it easy now," his wife told him. "Why don't you take a little nap after supper and then you can go back to the lab and get rid of the formula."

Phil was "sawing wood" faster than a machine in no time flat! He slept soundly, and his wife ran next door to visit the neighbors.

While she was gone, a sudden storm blew up. The rain pelted down upon the roof like a huge, splashing faucet. The wind whistled through the house, pulling loose papers into corners, tossing things helter-skelter.

Phil woke up with a shout . . . not his, but his wife's. She took one look at him, still sleeping, and she let out a whoop that cut him off right in the middle of a snore.

He jumped to his feet.

"Whazza matter?" he asked groggily. And then he looked around the room. "Gee, there must have been quite a storm."

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT STORY...

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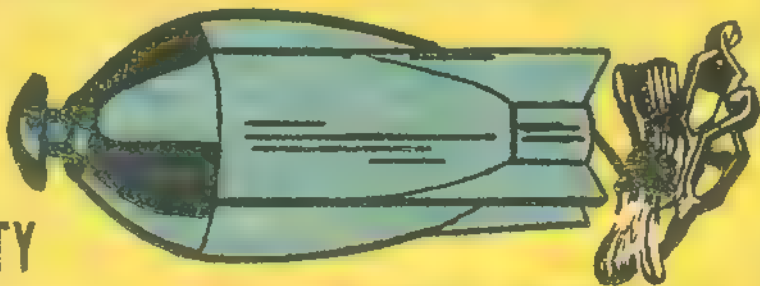
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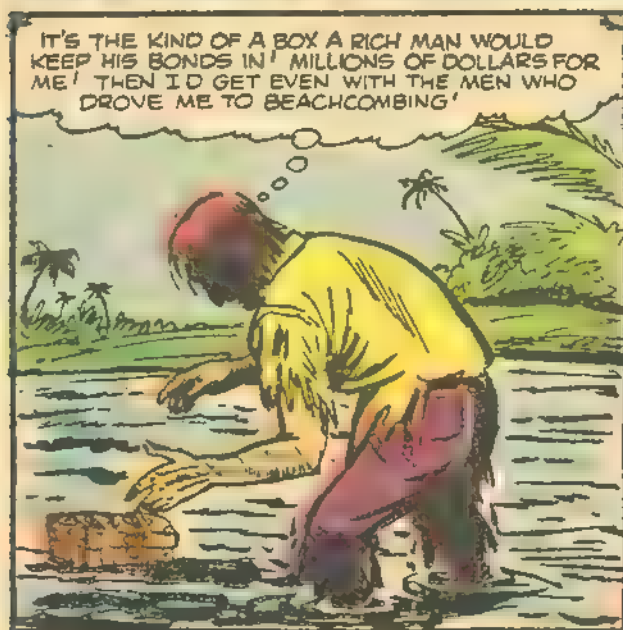
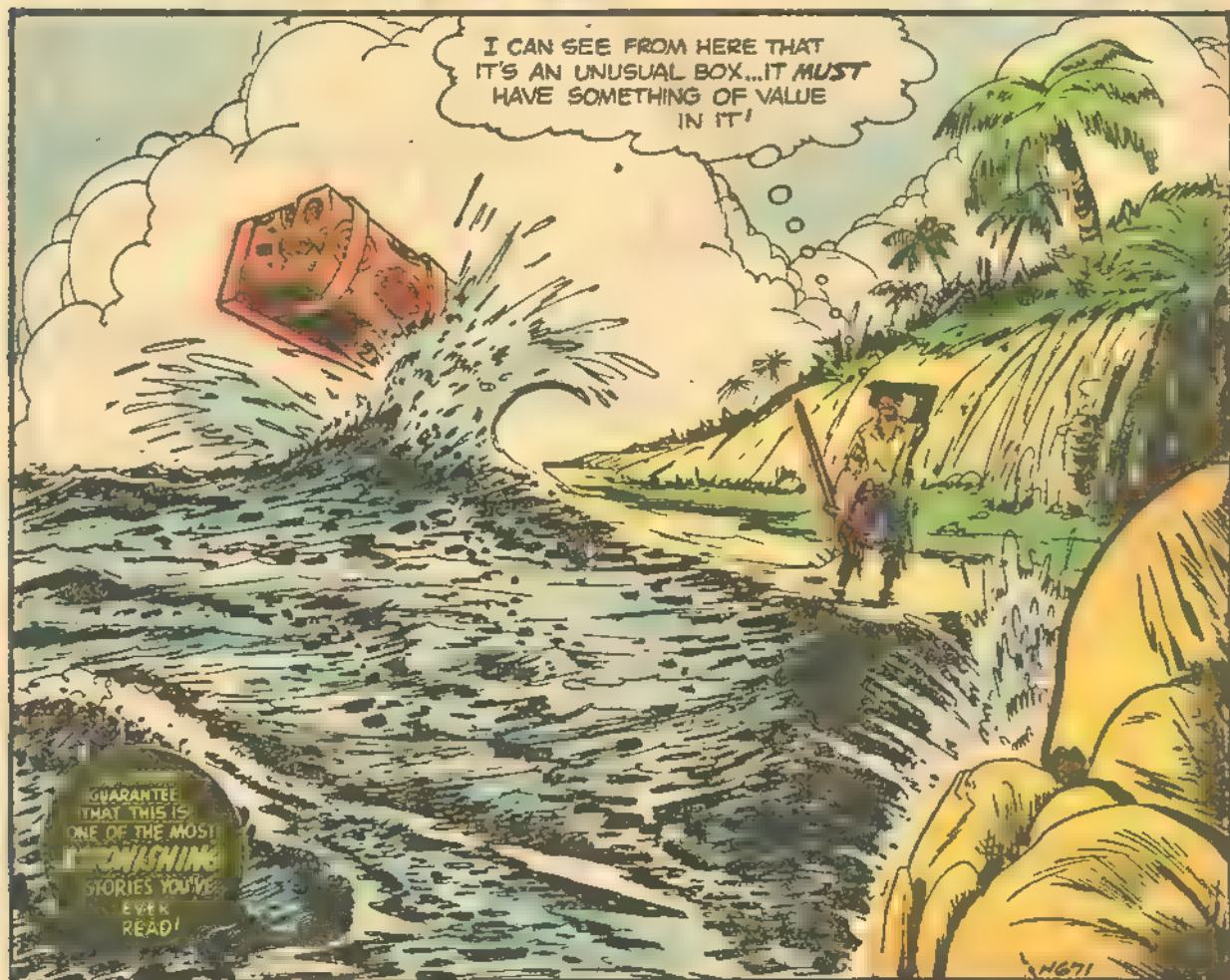
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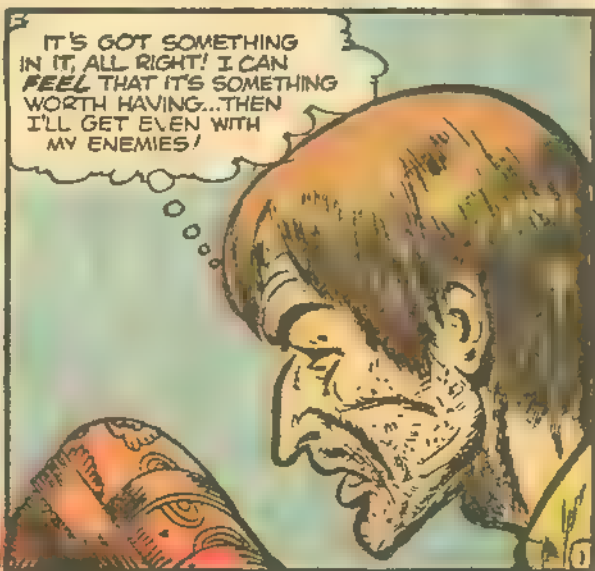
- ☐ I enclose payment You pay postage. ☐ Send C.O.D.

WHAT STRANGE OBJECT DID THREE STARTLED MEN SEE THAT MADE THEM SHRINK AWAY FROM THIS THING WITH SCORN?

THE THING IN THE BOX!

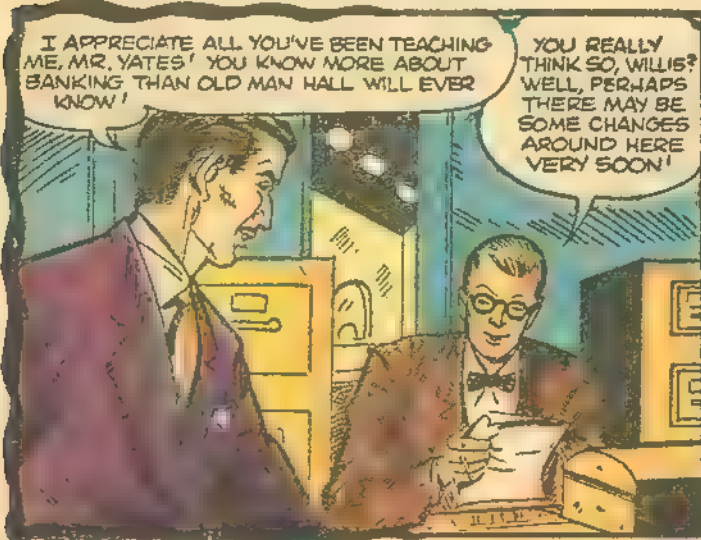


BUD WILLIS SHIVERED AS HE FUMBLER FOR THE ORNATE BOX! HIS TREMBLING HANDS TORE AT ITS LID...



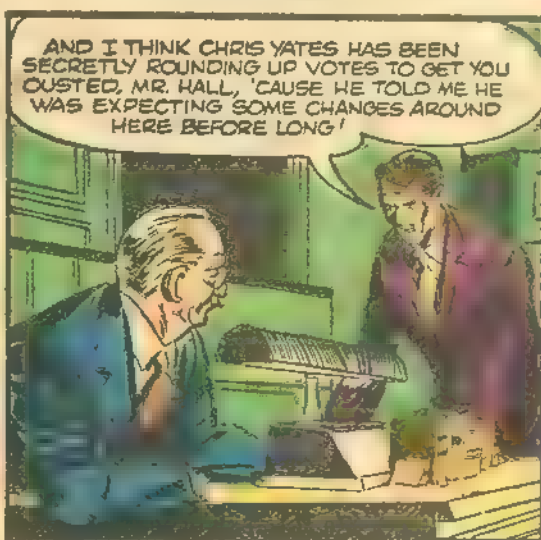
WHO WERE THOSE "ENEMIES" OF BUD WILLIS? LET'S LOOK INTO THE BEACHCOMBER'S PAST AND SEE! HE HAD BEEN HEAD ACCOUNTANT IN A BANK THEN...

A HALF-HOUR LATER, BUD WILLIS HAD GONE INTO THE OFFICE OF EVERETT HALL, PRESIDENT OF THE BANK...



I APPRECIATE ALL YOU'VE BEEN TEACHING ME, MR. YATES! YOU KNOW MORE ABOUT BANKING THAN OLD MAN HALL WILL EVER KNOW!

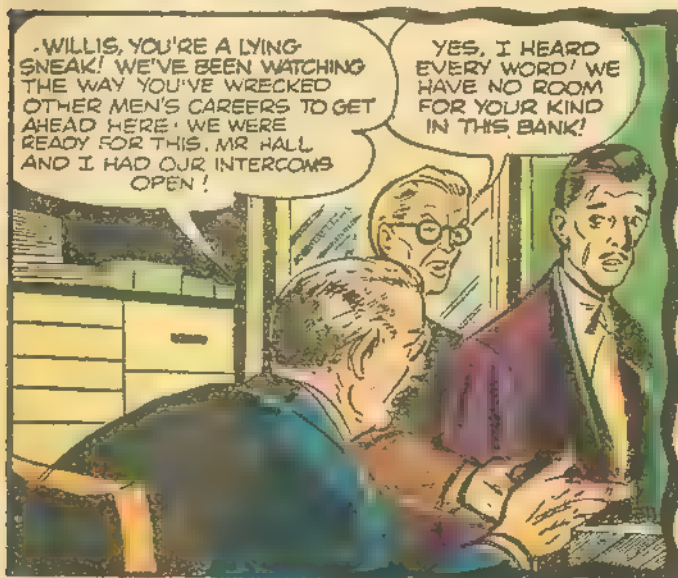
YOU REALLY THINK SO, WILLIS? WELL, PERHAPS THERE MAY BE SOME CHANGES AROUND HERE VERY SOON!



AND I THINK CHRIS YATES HAS BEEN SECRETLY ROUNDING UP VOTES TO GET YOU OUSTED, MR. HALL, 'CAUSE HE TOLD ME HE WAS EXPECTING SOME CHANGES AROUND HERE BEFORE LONG!

HE TURNED ICY INSIDE WHEN A MOMENT LATER, CHRIS YATES HAD ENTERED MR. HALL'S OFFICE...

SO BUD WILLIS LOST HIS JOB AT THE BANK AND COULD GET NO OTHER! THAT'S WHY HE CONSIDERED HIS FORMER EMPLOYERS TO BE "ENEMIES!" AND NOW, AS HE OPENED THE BOX...



WILLIS, YOU'RE A LYING SNEAK! WE'VE BEEN WATCHING THE WAY YOU'VE WRECKED OTHER MEN'S CAREERS TO GET AHEAD HERE. WE WERE READY FOR THIS, MR. HALL, AND I HAD OUR INTERCOMS OPEN!

YES, I HEARD EVERY WORD! WE HAVE NO ROOM FOR YOUR KIND IN THIS BANK!



OH, NO! (GASP!) NO! NO!

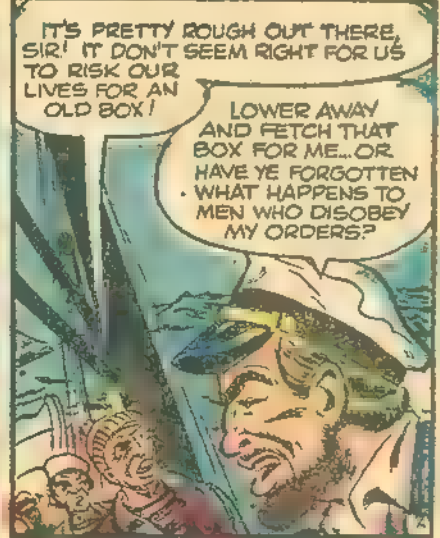


THE MYSTERIOUS BOX FLOATED OUT TO SEA, WHERE ONE STORMY DAY, IT WAS SIGHTED BY FREIGHTER CAPTAIN ABNER STARK...

CAPTAIN STARK BELLOWED AN ORDER FOR HIS SEAMEN TO PUT A BOAT OVER THE S.D.E...



IT'S A JEWEL BOX! AYE, AND MAYBE LOADED WITH JEWELS! TO BE RICH ENOUGH TO BUY MY OWN FLEET!



IT'S PRETTY ROUGH OUT THERE, SIR! IT DON'T SEEM RIGHT FOR US TO RISK OUR LIVES FOR AN OLD BOX!

LOWER AWAY AND FETCH THAT BOX FOR ME...OR HAVE YE FORGOTTEN WHAT HAPPENS TO MEN WHO DISOBEY MY ORDERS?

THE MEN LOWERED AWAY FOR THEY REMEMBERED WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO SEAMAN MIKE ROGAN

YE'VE PULLED THIS SICK ACT ON ME SINCE WE LEFT PORT, ROGAN! ONE LAST TIME NOW...OY YE GET UP AND WORK, OR WILL YE FINISH THIS VOYAGE IN THE BRIG?

I'M NOT ACTIN', SKIPPER! I FEEL TOO BAD TO MOVE!



ROGAN'S NOT BLUFFING, SIR! HE'S BEEN GROWING WORSE FOR A MONTH!

THEN I'LL CURE THE SHIRKER ON A DIET OF BREAD AND WATER! CARRY HIM TO THE BRIG!



THEY RECALLED THE COLD WAY IN WHICH CAPTAIN STARK HAD RECEIVED THE NEWS ABOUT MIKE ROGAN THAT NIGHT...

ROGAN WILL NEVER WORK AGAIN, CAP'N!

THAT'S JUST TOO BAD, HAGGERS! LET THAT BE A LESSON TO THE REST OF THE CREW!



OTHERS HAD FELT THE LASH OF STARK'S FURY, SO THE MEN BROUGHT HIM THE BOX! HASTILY HE OPENED IT AND LOOKED IN.

WHAT'S IN IT, SIR?

NO! NO!



WELL, WHAT'S IN THE BOX, SKIPPER?

NONE OF YER BUSINESS! YE'LL NEVER KNOW!



THE BOX WAS CAUGHT IN A CURRENT THAT CARRIED IT TOWARD LAND! BLACKIE BOLLARD WAS HIDING FROM THE LAW WHEN HE FOUND IT IN THE RIVER!

MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHIN' I CAN SELL IN THE BOX... THEN I COULD MAKE MY GETAWAY, OR MAYBE SOME FOOD...



THAT'S ALL I WANT, FOOD! JUST ENOUGH TO GIVE ME THE STRENGTH TO GO ON RUNNIN'!



WARDEN PHELPS HAD KNOWN THAT BLACKIE BOLLARD WAS A THIEF, BUT HE'D THOUGHT THERE WAS GOOD IN EVERY MAN, SO HE MADE BOLLARD A TRUSTY, BUT BOLLARD BETRAYED HIM!

THE WARDEN HAS BEEN FEEDIN' US CHEAP FOOD AN' POCKETIN' THE MONEY HIMSELF! RUSH THE GATES, BOYS! SHOW HIM WE'RE NOT FOOLS!



THE WARDEN HAD HEARD THE ANGRY ROAR OF THE CONVICTS AS THEY BATTERED OPEN THE GATES...

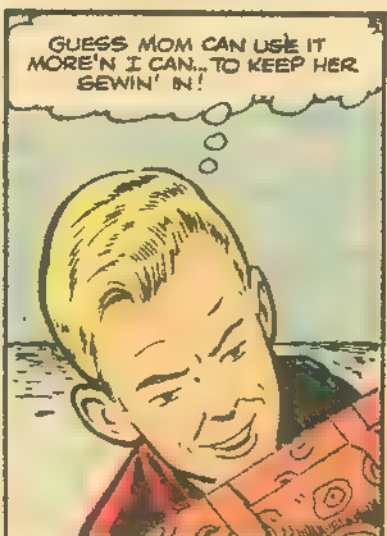
THE MEN HAD QUICKLY HEEDED WARDEN PHELPS' APPEAL AND HAD RETURNED! ONLY BOLLARD HAD ESCAPED... BUT THAT'D BEEN HIS PLAN! AND NOW HE LOOKED INTO THE BOX, AND THE THING IN IT MADE HIM SHUDDER.



JIMMY PRICE FOUND THE BOX LATER THAT DAY...

CURIOUSLY ENOUGH, JIMMY DID NOT REACT AS HAD THE OTHERS WHO LOOKED INTO THE BOX...

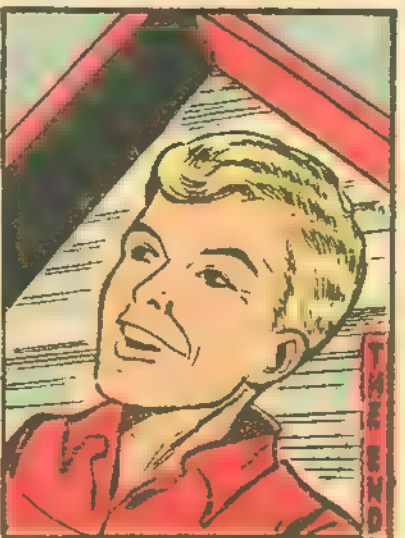
THERE WAS ONLY A MIRROR IN THE BOX! BUT WHAT MAN WOULD NOT SHRINK FROM THE SIGHT OF HIS OWN EVIL? SO WILLIS HAD SHRUNK FROM HIS LIVING, HYPOCRITICAL FACE!



IN THAT SAME MIRROR, CAPTAIN ABNER STARK'S INNER-SELF HAD BEEN REVEALED IN ALL HIS SPITE AND MEANNESS!

BLACKIE BOLLARD HAD TREMBLED UPON BEHOLDING THE REFLECTION OF HIS TREACHERY AND CUNNING!

BUT JIMMY PRICE SAW ONLY THE GOOD OF THE WORLD MIRRORED IN HIS HAPPY, SMILING FACE!



And I slept right through it! I must have been in a fog."

"In a purple fog!" his wife cried. "Just look at yourself!"

Phil turned to the mirror! He blinked his eyes in amazement. His face was a spectacular purple hue, very beautiful to look at, but extremely odd.

"And look at my geranium! My lovely green geranium is purple, too!" his wife cried. "Every plant in the house is purple, leaves and all!"

Phil clapped a hand to his purple forehead in dismay! The formula! He dashed to the lab and saw that the wind had knocked down the vial. The fine powder had blown through the air and turned every living thing in the house a vivid purple color.

"Now isn't that interesting!" Phil exclaimed.

"It's horrible, not interesting," his wife objected angrily. "How will you ever be able to show your face around this town again? What will people say?"

Phil blushed, and his purple cheeks deepened to violet.

"I guess you do feel pretty

awful, but I might mix up a solution to change me back to normal again."

"I'm sorry, Phil," his wife apologized. She put her arms around him. "I shouldn't have said that. I love you anyway. I guess in time I'll get used to seeing you this way."

Phil smiled gratefully.

The next day he called on the chemist. As he walked through town, every head turned to look at him. The neighbors visited to offer their condolences and curiosity. He was, after all, quite a spectacle.

The doctor shook his head sadly when Phil visited him and said he hoped that nature would restore what the formula had undone.

Finally, Phil decided to work again on the Dwarficus Ivy plant. He touched the leaves fondly and peered over them. Suddenly, the tiny plant sprung upwards, and as it inched higher, a lovely purple cluster of flowers bloomed at the top. Phil rushed into the house to show his wife.

"I did it!" he cried. "And the Dwarficus not only grew...

it bloomed!"

Phil was pale with excitement. The color drained from his face, and his wife called out happily.

"Darling! The plant has absorbed your color! You're no longer purple!"

"Subtle osmosis!" Phil laughed. "The Dwarficus Ivy must have brushed my cheek, and why didn't I think of that before? I could stain a glass slide and hold it to the plant. The results would have been the same!"

"The important thing is that you're the same," his wife said joyfully. "The same as you used to be!"

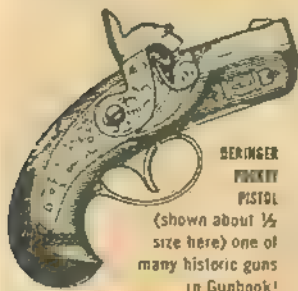
Phil could see the newspaper headlines....

"Young Philonicus, Prominent Venusian, Achieves Dwarficus Plant Miracle."

And as his wife led him to the mirror, he saw that his face was again the same complexion as hers and all the other Venusians on their planet... a rich, glowing shade of green!

THE END H-991

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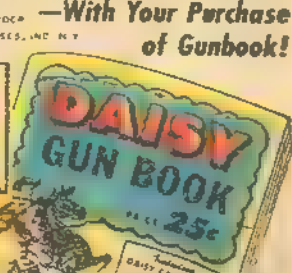
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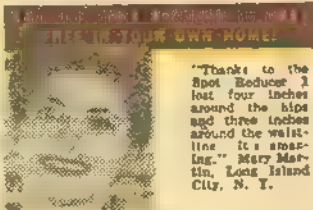
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CAPTAIN BLACKHEART'S GYPSY PRISONER MADE DIRE PREDICTIONS THAT FAILED TO HAPPEN WHEN THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO, BECAUSE THE PIRATE CHIEF DIDN'T KNOW WHAT DAY IT WAS!

THERE'S NO TOMORROW



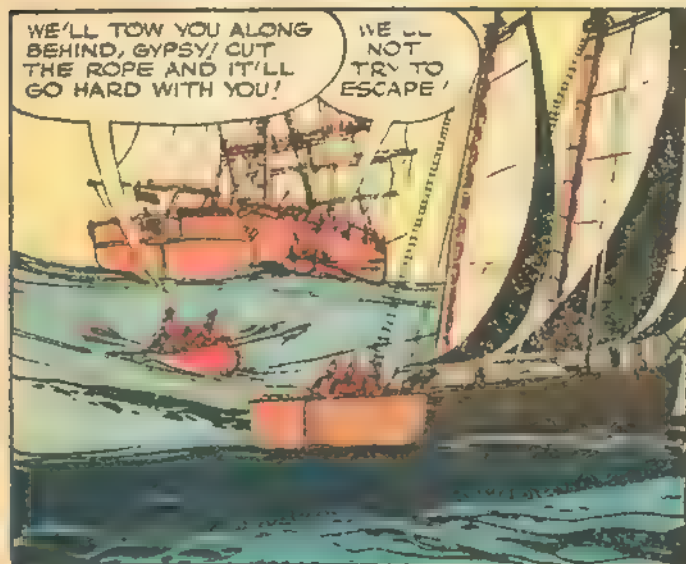


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PUNISHED FOR
BEING POOR?

I, ROSAMONDA,
CAN TELL YOU
THE SECRETS OF
THE UNIVERSE! IS
IT NOT WORTH A
FORTUNE CAPTAIN,
TO KNOW WHAT
THE FUTURE HOLDS
FOR YOU?



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FAST TO OURS!



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NOT
TRY TO
ESCAPE!

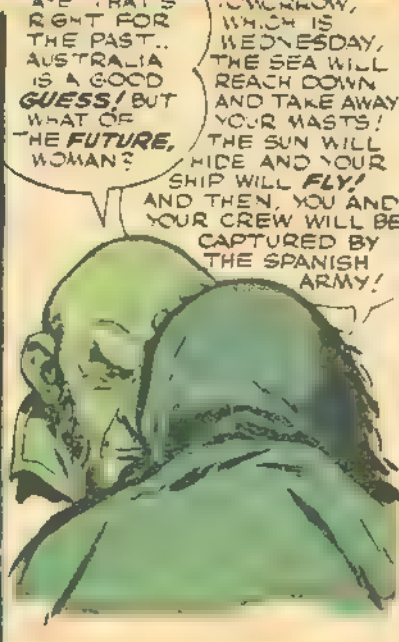


NOW, ROSAMONDA,
LET'S HEAR YOUR
PREDICTIONS! AT
LEAST IT WILL
BE AMUSING!

PERHAPS IT WILL
BE AMUSING,
CAPTAIN BLACKHEART
OR PERHAPS IT
WON'T BE!



I SEE THAT YOUR
SHIP LEFT AUSTRALIA
A WEEK AGO! YOU'VE
BEEN SAILING EAST-
WARD...



AYE THAT'S
RIGHT FOR
THE PAST..
AUSTRALIA
IS A GOOD
GUESS! BUT
WHAT OF
THE FUTURE,
WOMAN?

TOMORROW,
WHICH IS
WEDNESDAY,
THE SEA WILL
REACH DOWN
AND TAKE AWAY
YOUR MASTS!
THE SUN WILL
HIDE AND YOUR
SHIP WILL **FLY!**
AND THEN, YOU AND
YOUR CREW WILL BE
CAPTURED BY
THE SPANISH
ARMY!



THE SEA REACH
DOWN? THE
PYTHON FLY?
THE SPANISH
ARMY CAPTURE
US? YOU **LIE**,
GYPSY!

IT IS NOT I
THAT SPEAK..
IT IS MY CRYSTAL
BALL AND THAT
HAS ALWAYS
TOLD THE TRUTH,
CAPTAIN BLACKHEART!



IF THESE THINGS SHOW THEMSELVES TO BE TRUE... IF EVEN THE **FIRST** OF THEM HAPPENS ...I'LL BOMBARD YOUR SHIP UNTIL IT IS ALL DRIFT-WOOD!

AND IF MY PREDICTION PROVES FALSE?



IF WE ARE SAFE AFTER TOMORROW MIDNIGHT, THEN YOU'LL BE RETURNED TO YOUR FRIENDS AND YOUR SHIP SET FREE!

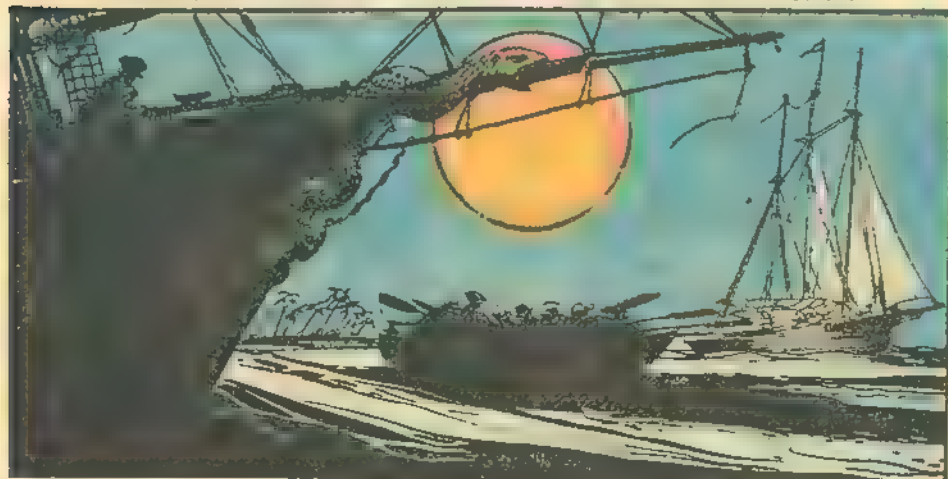


NEXT DAY, WEDNESDAY...

'TIS ALREADY LATE AFTERNOON, AND NO CALAMITY HAS BEFALLEN US! THE OLD GYPSY WOMAN IS A FAKE! SURELY YOU'RE NOT GOIN' TO SET HER FREE?

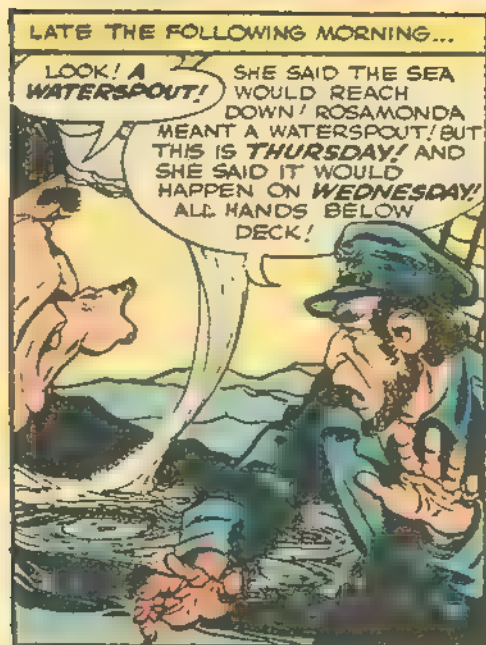
I MUST! IF SHE HAS POWERS OF MAGIC, SHE MAY YET **MAKE** HER PREDICTIONS COME TRUE!

WHEN WEDNESDAY MIDNIGHT CAME, AND ROSAMONDA'S FORECAST OF TROUBLE FAILED TO PROVE ITSELF, PIRATE BLACKHEART KEPT HIS PROMISE, DROPPING ANCHOR OFF THE TROPIC ISLE OF TONGA...



EVIL AND TREACHEROUS AS HE WAS, CAPTAIN BLACKHEART DID NOT DARE DOUBLE-CROSS THE GYPSY WOMAN...

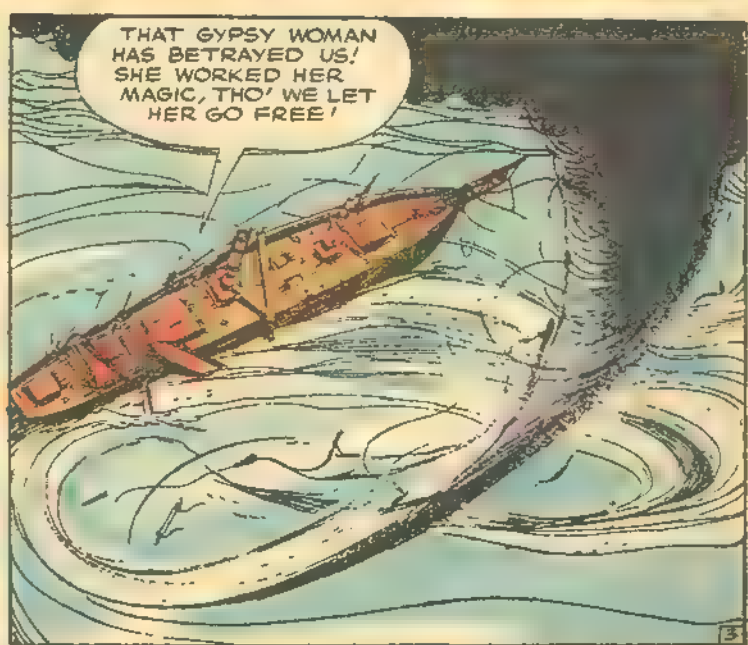
WE'RE WELL RID OF ROSAMONDA! SHE COULD HAVE BROUGHT US NAUGHT BUT DISASTER!



LATE THE FOLLOWING MORNING...

LOOK! A **WATERSPOUT!**

SHE SAID THE SEA WOULD REACH DOWN! ROSAMONDA MEANT A WATERSPOUT! BUT THIS IS **THURSDAY!** AND SHE SAID IT WOULD HAPPEN ON **WEDNESDAY!** ALL HANDS BELOW DECK!



THAT GYPSY WOMAN HAS BETRAYED US! SHE WORKED HER MAGIC, THO' WE LET HER GO FREE!

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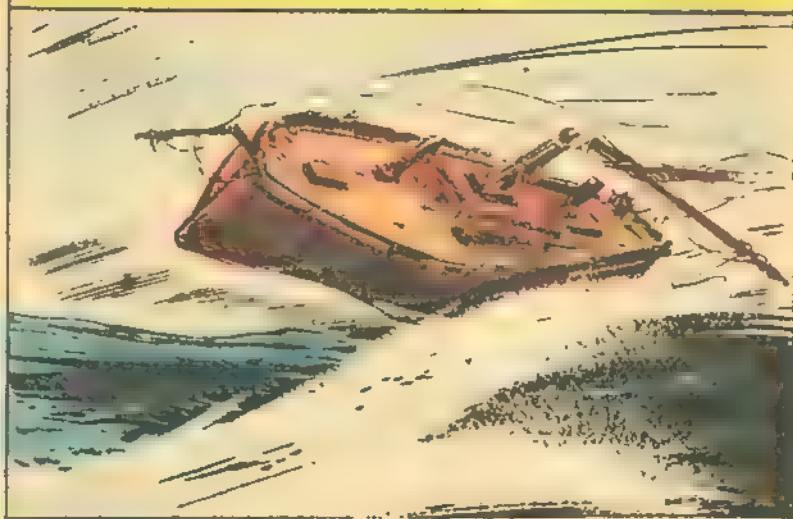
Est. CARTOONISTS' EXCHANGE
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THE BLACKNESS CAME ONLY A FEW MINUTES LATER...

SHE SAID THE SUN WOULD HIDE!

AYE, AND THIS SHIP WOULD FLY!

THEN A HURRICANE SUCH AS HAD NEVER BEEN SEEN BEFORE LIFTED THE PIRATE VESSEL *PYTHON* AND CARRIED HER EASTWARD OVER THE TURBULENT PACIFIC!



IF WE SURVIVE THIS BLOW I'LL SPEND THE REST OF MY DAYS HUNTING DOWN THAT GYPSY SHIP!

WHAT NEXT? THE GYPSY WOMAN SAID AN ARMY WOULD CAPTURE US!

AN HOUR LATER...

SHE'S STOPPED FLYING! WE'VE COME DOWN AT LAST!

IN THE NAME OF THE CROWN OF SPAIN I COMMAND YOU TO SURRENDER!

BUT WHERE HAVE YOU SOLDIERS COME FROM?

WE CAME FROM NOWHERE... IT WAS YOU WHO WERE BLOWN INTO THIS FORT BY THE HURRICANE! YOU'VE LANDED ON THE PHILIPPINES!

BEWARE, COLONEL, OF AN AGED GYPSY WOMAN, ROSAMONDA! SUCH TREACHERY! SHE SAID THIS WOULD HAPPEN TO US WEDNESDAY... **NOT TODAY!** SHE LIED SO I WOULD FREE HER!

AH, BUT THIS IS **WEDNESDAY!** COMING FROM THE WEST, YOU MUST HAVE CROSSED THE INTERNATIONAL DATE LINE! SO YOU LOST A DAY WHEN YOU PASSED THE ISLE OF TONGA! THURSDAY HAS YET TO REACH US... AND YOU, AMIGOS, WILL SPEND IT IN PRISON!

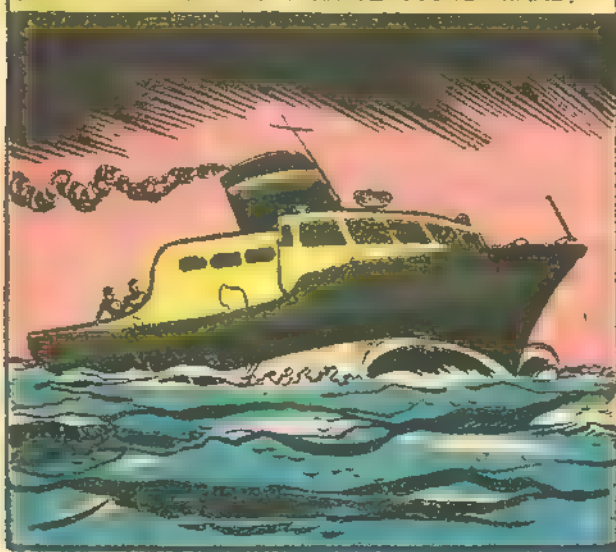
THE END

YOU PROBABLY REMEMBER THE NEWSPAPER HEADLINES AND THE STORIES OF SPECULATION THAT FOLLOWED, ABOUT THE SMALL SHIP, THE LADY ANNE! SHE DISAPPEARED AT SEA, VANISHED SUDDENLY, LEAVING NO TRACE AT ALL! THEN EVERY 30 OVEN, PEOPLE WONDER JUST WHAT BECAME OF HER AND HER CREW OF FOUR SEAMEN! THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LADY ANNE AND HER CREW...

WHEN ENDS THE DREAM!



SHE WAS AS MODERN AND SEAWORTHY A LITTLE SHIP AS MONEY AND MODERN BUILDING METHODS AND SCIENTIFIC MARITIME SCIENCE COULD MAKE!



BUT THE IMPORTANT THING ABOUT THE LADY ANNE WAS THE MEN WHO MADE HER LIVE...HER CREW! THERE WAS CAPTAIN CROSS, A SEAMAN OF THE OLD SCHOOL...

A CREW OF ONLY FOUR MEN! YET THAT'S ALL THIS CRAFT REALLY NEEDS! IF I COULD ONLY HAVE BEEN SAILING WHEN THE SEA BECKONED ONLY TO MEN OF RUGGEDNESS AND SHIPS WERE A MAN'S JOB TO SAIL!



AND PARREN, THE RED-HEADED FIRST MATE...HE WAS A SWASHBUCKLING ADVENTURER AT HEART, A MAN STIFLED BY THE RESTRICTED BARS IMPOSED BY MODERN CIVILIZATION!



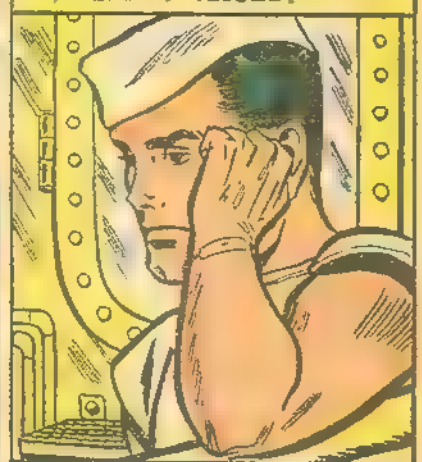
I HATE THE THOUGHT OF LAND AGAIN! AT LEAST OUT HERE A MAN CAN BREATHE, IF NOTHING ELSE!

AND MARK...HE WAS A DREAMER, A PHILOSOPHER, WHO LOVED BEAUTY AND THE PURITY OF THOUGHT! IN THIS CENTURY OF OURS, HE FITTED AS BADLY AS A SQUARE PEG IN A ROUND HOLE!

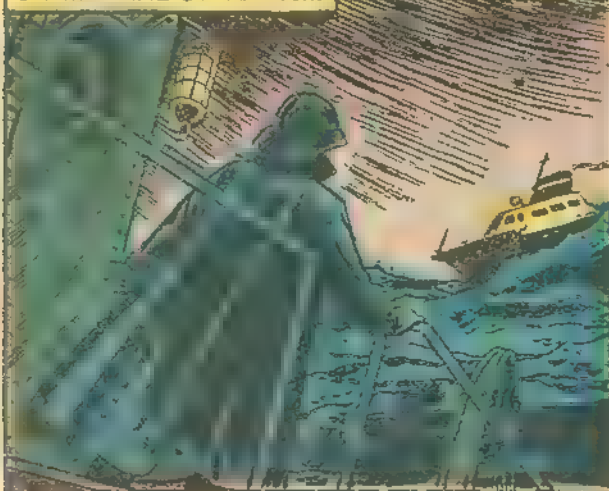


I DISLIKE GOING BACK, TOO! THE CITIES, THE RUSHING AROUND, THE SCRAMBLE TO EARN A LIVING ARE FOREIGN TO ME AND MAKE ME FEEL HELPLESS!

YOUNG RENNY HAD NOTHING TO GO BACK FOR! HE WAS A ROMANTIC AND, JUST BEFORE THE VOYAGE BEGAN, HE HAD BEEN JILTED BY THE GIRL HE LOVED! TO HIM LIFE WAS AN EMPTY VESSEL!



THIS WAS THE CREW AND THIS WAS THE SHIP THAT HIT A MILD SQUALL OFF THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS...WAS SIGHTED TAKING THE SEAS COMFORTABLY AND WITHOUT EFFORT BY A COMMERCIAL STEAMER...



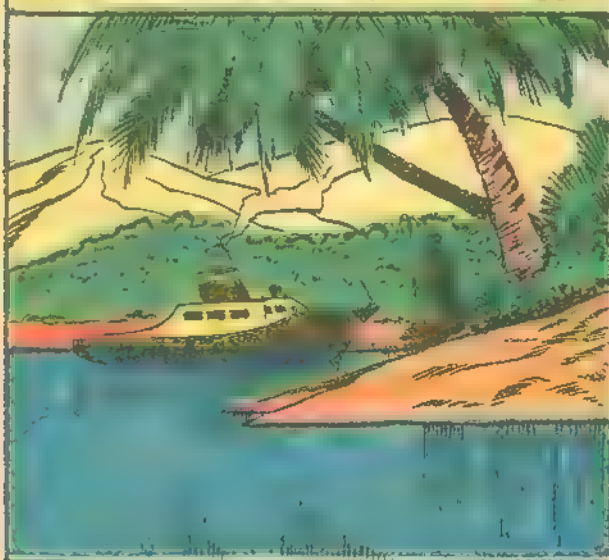
THEN SUDDENLY AND COMPLETELY IT VANISHED!

THAT SHIP...DISAPPEARED AS THOUGH THE SQUALL SWALLOWED HER!

SEND OUT AN S.O.S. AND STAND BY! WE'LL SEE IF WE CAN FIND ANY TRACE OF HER OR HER CREW!

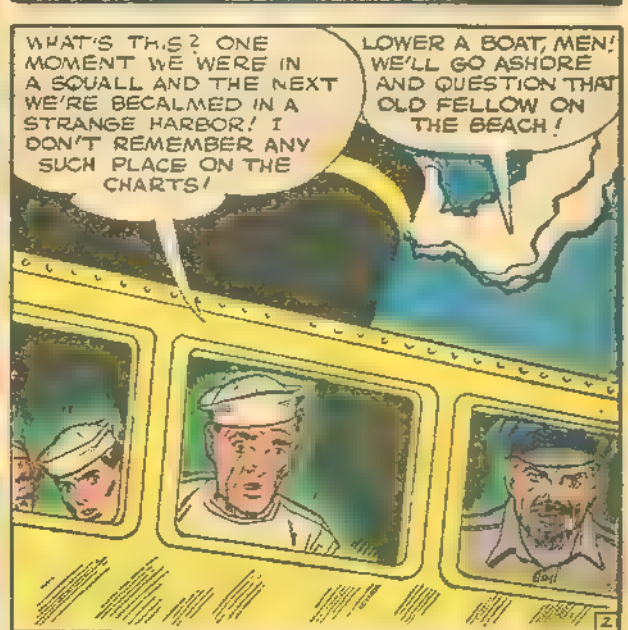


BUT THEY FOUND NO TRACE OF SHIP OR CREW, THE LADY ANNE HAD ENTERED A CALM HARBOR!



WHAT'S THIS? ONE MOMENT WE WERE IN A SQUALL AND THE NEXT WE'RE BECALMED IN A STRANGE HARBOR! I DON'T REMEMBER ANY SUCH PLACE ON THE CHARTS!

LOWER A BOAT, MEN! WE'LL GO ASHORE AND QUESTION THAT OLD FELLOW ON THE BEACH!





WHAT LAND IS THIS?
IT'S NOT ON OUR
MAPS OR CHARTS!

IT WOULDN'T BE,
CAPTAIN! YOU HAVE
SAILED THROUGH A RENT
IN THE CURTAIN OF TIME
INTO A WORLD OF ANOTHER
DIMENSION!



LET US SAY THEN THAT THIS
IS A **DREAM WORLD**, BUILT
BY DREAMS OF MEN IN
ANOTHER DIMENSION! HERE,
IN THIS WORLD, MEN FIND
THE LIFE THEY ARE BEST
FITTED FOR!



THERE ARE FOUR PATHS! EACH
OF YOU WILL CHOOSE ONE PATH
AND FOLLOW IT TO ITS DESTINATION!
AT A GIVEN TIME, YOU WILL HEAR
MY CALL AND YOU MUST RETURN
HERE!

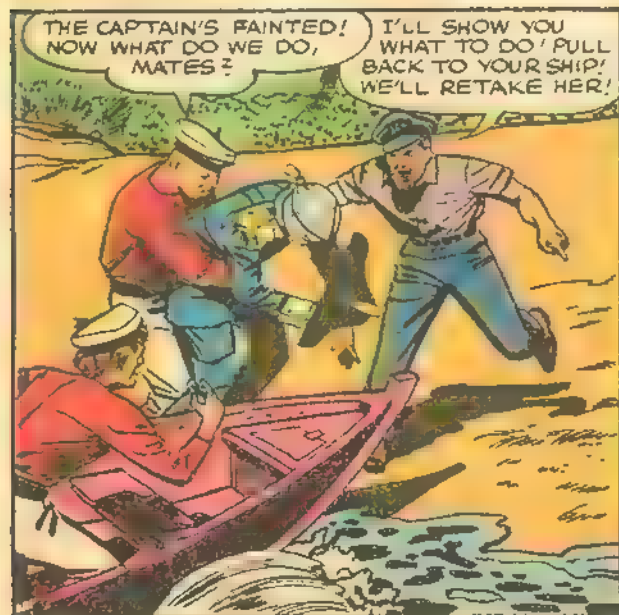


SO EACH WALKED DOWN A PATH
ALONE AND FOUND... BUT LET
US FOLLOW THEM, ONE AT A
TIME, TO THEIR DESTINY!
CAPTAIN CROSS FOLLOED A PATH
THAT SOON TURNED TOWARD
THE SEA AGAIN!

WHAT'S THIS?
IT'S LIKE THE
DREAMS OF
THE SEA I
HAD AS A
CHILD!

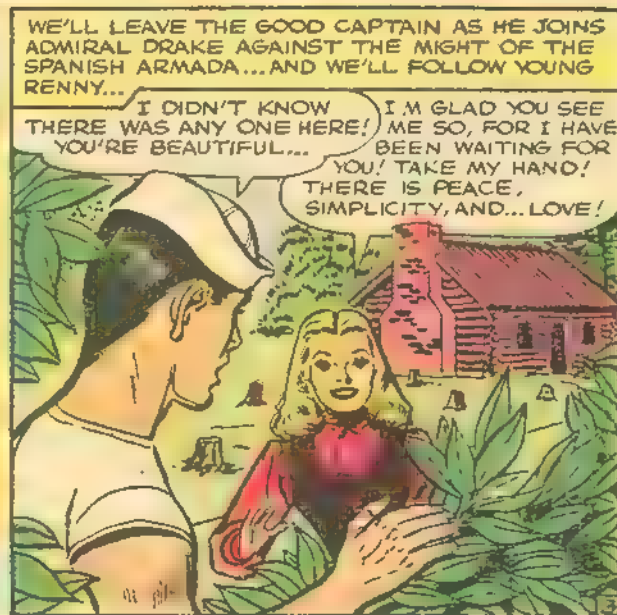


AH! AN HONEST, ENGLISH
FACE! I'M CAPTAIN BONIFACE
OF THE BRIG, "QUEEN'S
CONSORT," WITH DRAKE'S
FLOTILLA! THE
SPANIARDS
BOARDED MY
SHIP!



THE CAPTAIN'S FAINTED!
NOW WHAT DO WE DO,
MATES?

I'LL SHOW YOU
WHAT TO DO! PULL
BACK TO YOUR SHIP!
WE'LL RETAKE HER!

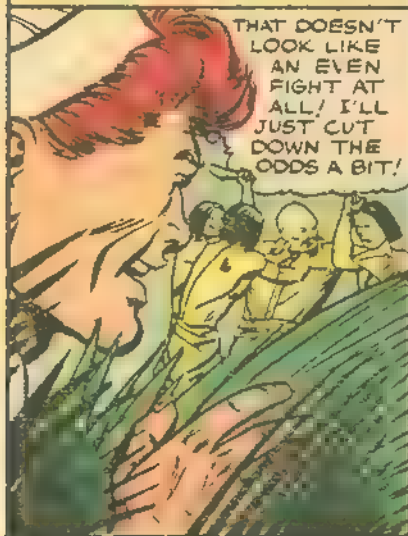


WE'LL LEAVE THE GOOD CAPTAIN AS HE JOINS
ADMIRAL DRAKE AGAINST THE MIGHT OF THE
SPANISH ARMADA... AND WE'LL FOLLOW YOUNG
RENNY...

I DIDN'T KNOW
THERE WAS ANY ONE HERE!

ME SO, FOR I HAVE
BEEN WAITING FOR
YOU! TAKE MY HAND!
THERE IS PEACE,
SIMPLICITY, AND... LOVE!

AND WHAT OF PARREN? WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM WHEN HE CAME TO THE END OF HIS PATH?



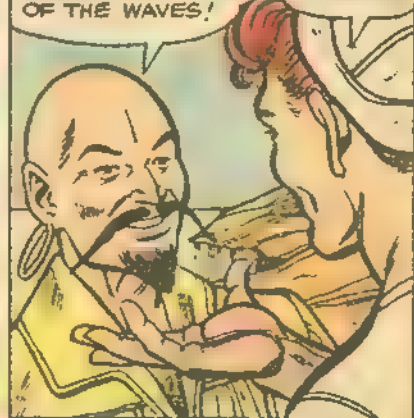
THAT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE AN EVEN FIGHT AT ALL! I'LL JUST CUT DOWN THE ODDS A BIT!

HA! YOU COME IN TIME, BROTHER...ELSE THESE DOGS WOULD SOON HAVE FINISHED ME!

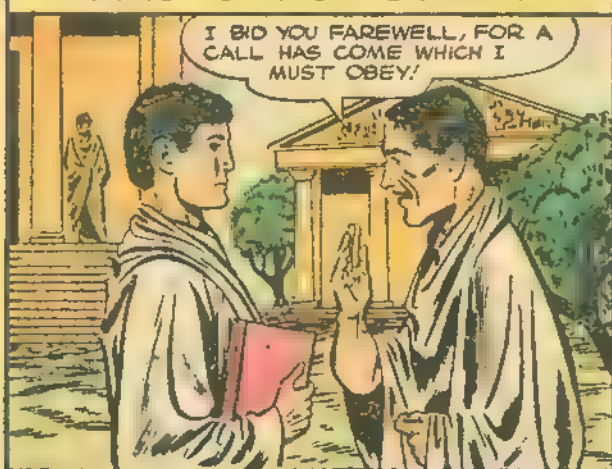


I SHALL CALL YOU THE **RED HAWK!** AROUND THE BEND OF LAND WAIT TWO GREAT GALLEYS! I, THE CALIPH EL MARIN, GIVE TO YOU COMMAND OF ONE! WE ARE SEA RAIDERS...WOLVES OF THE WAVES!

SOUNDS LIKE JUST MY CUP OF TEA! LEAD THE WAY, BROTHER!

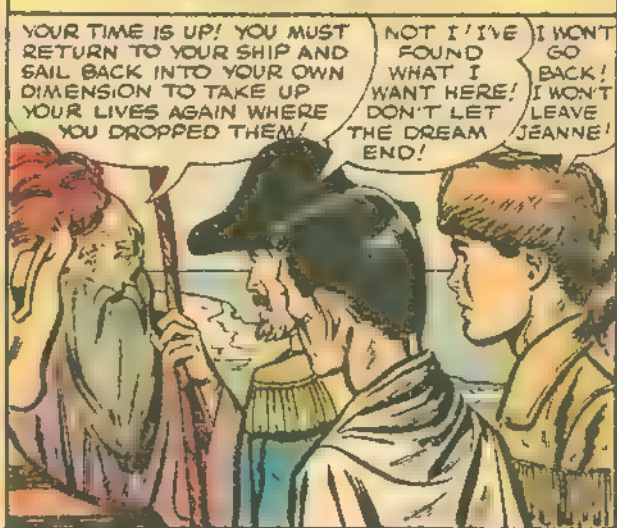


MARK HAD FOUND ANCIENT GREECE IN THIS LAND OF ANOTHER DIMENSION...GREECE WHO VENERATED HER DREAMERS AND PHILOSOPHERS WHO BUILT HER CIVILIZATION ON BEAUTY! TO MARK, AS TO THE OTHERS, THE CALL PRESENTLY CAME FROM THE OLD MAN ON THE SHORE...



I BID YOU FAREWELL, FOR A CALL HAS COME WHICH I MUST OBEY!

AND THESE FOUR OF THE **LADY ANNE** RETRACED THEIR STEPS DOWN THE PATHS TO THE BEACH AND FACED THE OLD MAN!

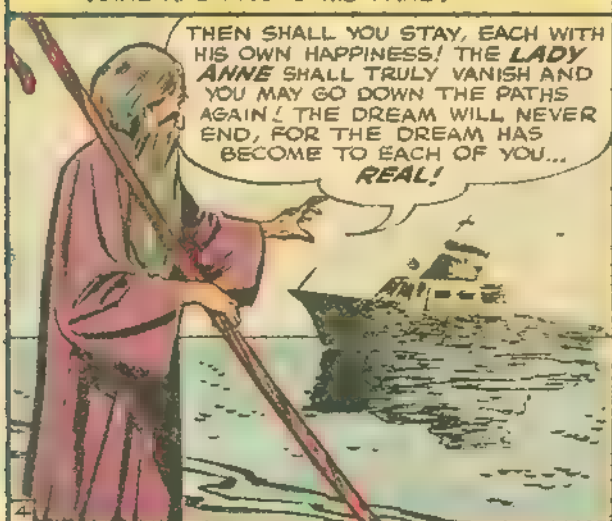


YOUR TIME IS UP! YOU MUST RETURN TO YOUR SHIP AND SAIL BACK INTO YOUR OWN DIMENSION TO TAKE UP YOUR LIVES AGAIN WHERE YOU DROPPED THEM!

NOT I! I'VE FOUND WHAT I WANT HERE! DON'T LET THE DREAM END!

I WON'T GO BACK! I WON'T LEAVE JEANNE!

EACH LOUDLY AND WITH DETERMINATION VOICED HIS OBJECTIONS TO RETURN! THE OLD MAN HEARD AND NODDED! HE TURNED TO THE **LADY ANNE** AND RAISED HIS HAND!



THEN SHALL YOU STAY, EACH WITH HIS OWN HAPPINESS! THE **LADY ANNE** SHALL TRULY VANISH AND YOU MAY GO DOWN THE PATHS AGAIN! THE DREAM WILL NEVER END, FOR THE DREAM HAS BECOME TO EACH OF YOU...
REAL!

AND SO, THEY TOOK THE PATHS, WALKING SWIFTLY TOWARD THEIR DREAM THAT WOULD NEVER END!



THE END

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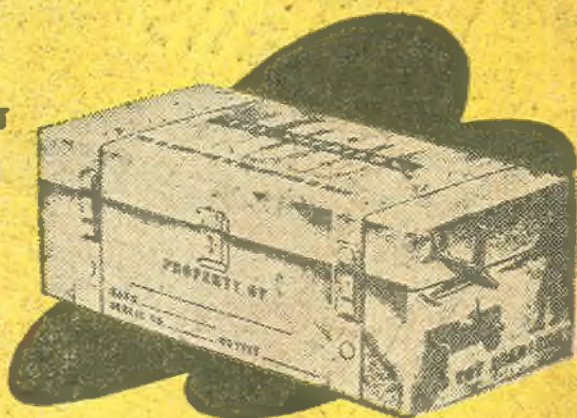
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